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# THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 12 No. 35 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of July 10, 2012

## Pink Portage inspires residents on way through Aurora

By Brock Weir



Cancer fundraiser Andrew Metcalfe, 21, carried his eye-catching canoe through Aurora on Friday as part of his Pink Portage fundraiser. Mr. Metcalfe has been carrying his canoe from Kingston to Windsor (by way of Ottawa) since the spring and enjoyed the hospitality of Aurorans as he made his way from Holland Landing to Toronto. His mission was to raise awareness of breast cancer and \$5,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society, but had well surpassed his goal by the time he arrived in Town.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Andrew Metcalfe cut a solitary figure as he walked through Aurora carrying a pink canoe over his head.

The Etobicoke native, however, was rarely solitary for long as passing drivers and pedestrians stopped him to find out just why he was carrying a pink canoe through Aurora - especially during the record breaking heat on Friday.

Those who already knew what he was doing, however, didn't need to ask any questions and just came up to him toting bottles of water to keep him hydrated along his way.

Andrew wasn't carrying a canoe through Aurora to go for a paddle, his mission was, and continues to be, the Pink Portage, his own way to bring attention to and raise funds for cancer research. He is on a 1,200 km journey across Ontario, carrying his canoe the entire way.

Having begun his journey this spring in Kingston, Mr. Metcalfe has so far looped from Kingston around to Ottawa, across the province to north of Barrie, and is current working his way to Windsor, the final destination on this his mission.

Andrew's journey was inspired by his mother, aunt, and grandmother, all of whom have done battle with breast cancer. While his mother and grandmother are in remission, his aunt did not fare as well. He recalled on his website that as he grew up, he had many questions about cancer and how it could be prevented and treated. He said he believes it will take an "entire community of people to generate a strong campaign" to lead to continued cancer research and care, and

Continued on page 14

## Countdown to Hoedown

By Brock Weir

Reps from local charities, sports clubs, and service groups put on their finest western duds and headed to the corral to officially launch the 2012 Wild West Hoedown.

The kick-off to the 2012 Hoedown Campaign, one of the largest annual charity events in York Region, was held at Magna's Adena Springs near Bayview and Wellington on Thursday afternoon. The purpose wasn't just to kick-start the campaign - as tickets have already been selling furiously across the Region - but also to introduce the beneficiaries of this year's events.


Last year's event raised over \$520,000 for groups spreading the length and breadth of York Region and organizers hope this year's event, to be held on September 15 on the lawns of Magna, will be bigger and better than ever.

So do the groups as the money raised in the event will ultimately go to them.

This year's lucky recipients are the Alzheimer Society of York Region, Aurora Minor Hockey, Aurora Youth Soccer Club, Bereaved families York Region, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, Ducks Swimming, Georgina Arts Council, Habitat for Humanity York Region, Horses at Heart Therapeutic Equestrian Adventures, Literacy Council York-Simcoe, Marquee Theatrical Productions, Moving Forward 2015 Foundation, Newmarket Minor Hockey, Newmarket Soccer Club, Newmarket Stingrays Swim Club,

Continued on page 3

**MACBETH**  
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



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COMING EVENTS

ON NOW

JUNE 2 - JULY 14

The Ontario Society of Artists hosts a members' exhibition celebrating the Society's 140th anniversary at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The show brings together over 100 works of art from nearly 100 individual members. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 12 noon to 4 p.m., and during special events. Two afternoons of artists talks will be held June 11 and July 20. Five selected OSA artists over the two afternoons will discuss their creative process in a series of live demos and illustrated lectures. All are welcome to attend and admission is free. For more information, contact the Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

JUNE 26 - JULY 15

Unleash the artist within! Paint a small (4" x 4") canvas for the 'Who Dunn-it Art Gallery' (WDI Gallery) supporting the 2012 Aurora jazz+ Festival. Your masterpiece will be displayed at Jonathan's Restaurant in Aurora but no one will know 'Who Dunn-it' until it is purchased July 15th. 'Who Dunnit' masterpieces will be offered at \$20 per canvas at The Jazz Fest's Fabulous Festival Fundraiser at Jonathan's July 15th 3 - 8pm. Contact: [info@aurorajazzfest.com](mailto:info@aurorajazzfest.com) 905-841-6893.

JULY 3 - 24

Eating Disorders of York Region presents a four week program: Guidance and Assistance for Family and Friends of Those Striving to Overcome an Eating Disorder Support Group with Flora Svinarenko. The group meets for four Tuesdays starting on July 3 from 6.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. Support for family and friends is vital in the recovery of a loved one. A family member or a friend needs to be a strong, safe and consistent source of support and needs to take care of themselves in order to do so. It is good to know that you are not alone when you experience stress, frustration or anger. An eating disorder affects the whole family. Meetings will take place at 300 John Street, Suite 300, Thornhill, ON. L3T 5W5. Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email [support-group@edoyr.com](mailto:support-group@edoyr.com).

JULY 4 - JULY 24

Aurora artist Herbert Pryke will host Plein Air Summer Painting, a four week outdoor art program starting July 4 at the Oak Ridges Community Centre (12895 Bayview Avenue). Each week is a new location and outdoors every time. Cost for the program is \$67.10 for residents, \$77.10 for non-residents, and \$46.97 for seniors. To register, contact Kim Smylie, Adult Program Coordinator for the Town of Richmond Hill at 905-882-4295 x.3153 or [ksmylie@richmondhill.ca](mailto:ksmylie@richmondhill.ca).

JULY 9 - 13

The Aurora United Church will hold its Fruit of the Spirit Vacation Bible Camp beginning July 9 from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon for kids ages 5-12. Movies, Crafts, Snacks, Games and Music. \$25/child. Please call the church at 905-727-1935 to register.

JULY 9 - AUGUST 20

Eating Disorders of York Region presents a six week program, Life without Ed, an eating disorder support group. It will meet for six Mondays beginning July 9 (excluding the long weekend) from 5 to 6 p.m. It will take place at EDOYR's headquarters in Aurora at 15213 Yonge Street, Ste. 15 (Just south of Wellington in the old Post Office building). Eating Disorders of York Region is a registered non-profit organization. Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email [support-group@edoyr.com](mailto:support-group@edoyr.com).

JULY 10 - JULY 31

Eating Disorders of York Region presents a four week program, Healing and Emotional Eating: Using or Refusing Food to Cope, with psychotherapist Marilyn Strauch. It meets for four Tuesdays starting on July 10 from 4 to 5 p.m. Individuals with eating disorders may restrict, overeat or emotionally eat in an effort to numb out or not deal with uncomfortable negative emotions, or to reinforce a positive mood. Unfortunately, after each episode, there is generally increased self-criticism around weight, body image and lack of control; in addition to long term negative physical conditions. The program will take place in Richmond Hill at 115 Wertheim Court, Suite 511 (East off West Beaver Creek, North of Hwy 7). Register online or call 905-886-6632 or email [support-group@edoyr.com](mailto:support-group@edoyr.com).

-WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a dynamic afternoon lecture series in celebration of the ongoing gallery show Ontario Society of Artists Celebrates 140 Years. 1 p.m.: Eileen Menzel, OSA, with the lecture "Say it With Mixed Media"; 2 p.m. Janet Baker, OSA, with "Leaving Room for Serendipity - An Artist's Evolution"; 3 p.m.: Andrew Benyei, OSA, with "From Clay to Bronze - Sculpting Secrets Revealed." All welcome - free admission. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818 or visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

[www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

THURSDAY, JULY 12

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the All About Perspective Drawing Workshop (adult ages 16+). Artist-instructor Khatcho will guide in techniques focusing on natural, atmospheric and linear, as well as 1, 2 and 3-point perspective. Registration in advance; workshop fee includes large-format paper. For info or to register please call 905-713-1818; full details at [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

SATURDAY, JULY 14

The Humber River Shakespeare Company presents Macbeth tonight at Town Park. The performance gets under way at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$15, but admission is pay what you can at the park. Bring your friends, your family, a picnic, and a blanket and witness swords clashing, witches enchanting, madness and mystery entwining, and war drums pulsing! For more information visit [humberrivershakespeare.ca](http://humberrivershakespeare.ca) or call 416-209-2026.

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Doors Open Aurora celebrations from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Drop by the Centre throughout the day for dynamic and exciting programs. Photo presentation: Postcards of Old Aurora: The McRoberts Collection, with Bob McRoberts on hand to answer questions from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; painting performances with OSA artist Alex Tavares from 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m., and T. Reilly Hodgson from 1.30 - 3 p.m.; classical piano performance featuring Oleg Samokhin at 11.45 a.m., and Valentin Bogolubov at 1.30 p.m.; community art projects and gallery visits throughout the day. Free admission - all welcome! Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Aurora's famed Merlin's Hollow garden will open its doors for the final time this season today, showcasing their summer flowering perennials, ponds and water gardens. The garden will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free. For more information, call 905-727-8979.

\*\*\*\*

Fabulous Festival Fundraiser - Jonathan's Restaurant Sunday, July 15th, from 3 - 8 p.m. Live jazz+ Entertainment; Beer/Wine Tasting; Visual Arts Display and silent auction supporting the Award Winning 2012 Aurora jazz+ Festival. RSVP: 905-841-1807. Limited seating.

TUESDAY, JULY 17

Bonsai Hill Tea House hosts "The Youthfulness of Summer", an evening of poetry featuring poets, storytellers, and musicians. Featured musician is Alex Nugent, and poets include Luleta Brown, Deborah Campo, Stephanie Davidson, Sterling Dillinger, Billy Ferguson, Susana Lucia, Linda Squires, Dierdre Tomlinson, Malcolm Watts and guest poets are welcome to take advantage of the open mic. The evening lasts from 7 to 9 p.m. and performances begin at 7.15. Limited seating.

THURSDAY, JULY 19

The Third Annual Portraits of Giving exhibition opens today at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The occasion will be marked with a charity opening reception at the gallery located at 22 Church Street. The exhibition is the work of York Region Photographer Karen Merk and writer Heather Ann Lambert. It features portraits of inspirational people who have given back to their communities in amazing ways. Join our 2012 honourees, Portraits alumni and local dignitaries. In the spirit of giving, 100 per cent of the \$10 entry fee will be donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The reception includes presentations, music, food, drinks, and lots of good feelings. For more information, contact [portraitsforgiving2012aurora.eventbrite.com](mailto:portraitsforgiving2012aurora.eventbrite.com).

SATURDAY, JULY 21

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Sowing the Seeds of Heritage: Artifacts from Members of the York-Durham Association of Museums and Archives. Stroll through the Aurora Room in a series of small vignettes from YDAMA members - from the post office and railway station, dressmaker's shop and local farming implements, to a homestead kitchen - and the tavern! Join us for the Opening Reception from 1 - 4 p.m.; don't miss a demonstration on dousing at 2 p.m.! Free admission and light refreshments. Heritage exhibition continues through until August 28. Summer Gallery hours Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Saturdays 12 - 4 p.m. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

\*\*\*\*

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Celebrating Our Summer Exhibitions, with a launch of three art gallery shows that will continue through the end of August. Opening Reception from 1 - 4 p.m.; all welcome. "Let It Go!" A New Installation by early career artist T. Reilly Hodgson, "North of 60: Photography of the Arctic" from Ralph & Margaret Brunner (show & sale), and "Work From Heart, Mind & Hand: A Group Exhibition" featuring the work of 24 artists from the Uxbridge Artist Collective. Guests will also enjoy Portraits of Giving 2012, opening July 19. Summer Gallery hours Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays from 12 noon - 4 p.m. Wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

\*\*\*\*

Everyone can get their car washed and support Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) on Saturday, July 21st at Richmond Hill Honda. Friendly Honda employees will work their car-cleaning magic from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$5 a wash. Three dollars from every wash will

benefit EDOYR's programs.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

Garden Aurora! Invites you to hear Peter Gill from the Ontario Water Garden Society speak about 'Container Water Gardens'. You can enjoy water gardening even in a small space. Join us 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora. More information at [www.gardenaurora.com](http://www.gardenaurora.com).

\*\*\*\*

Chartwell Seniors Housing Reit is hosting a Cooking for a Cause BBQ in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association today at Newmarket's Seniors Meeting Place. Members of the public are invited to attend a fabulous diabetes-friendly BBQ prepared by chefs at Alexander Muir, Barton, and Park Place Manor Retirement Residents. You will have an opportunity to learn easy recipes while enjoying a healthy meal in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association. The benefits of good nutrition and wise food choices lower your levels of the risk of diabetes. The barbeque begins at Noon. For more information, contact Maureen O'Leary at 905-727-2952.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

The Aurora Historical Society and Hillary House will host "Camp Dig It! Nature Detectives" the second event of Camp Hillary for kids ages seven - 11. Cost is \$15 for the day or \$35 for all three camps. Pre-registration is required and there is a maximum of 20 kids per camp. Camp runs from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991. (Rain Date: August 11)

TUESDAY, JULY 31

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the Making Professional Art Prints without a Press Workshop (adult ages 16+). Artist-instructor Valerie Kent will provide an enjoyable day-long introduction to a process of printmaking that can be replicated at home. Paint a series of images on sanded Plexiglass, and then transfer them to specialty papers. Once completed, your print can be framed or taken to the print shop to create a note card series. Workshop fee includes all materials. For info or to register please call 905-713-1818; full details at [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca).

AUGUST 3 - 5

The Aurora Festival of the Arts will host the Aurora jazz+ Festival Friday to Sunday at Town Park. The

Aurora jazz+ Festival (Aj+F) is produced by the Aurora Festival of Arts (AFA), a not for profit Ontario corporation. The Aurora jazz+ Festival showcases & supports local talents offering three days of music and art in the park. AFA's mission includes, in general, the development of local cultural community by building a diverse Arts/Music Festival network attracting artisans and patrons to the heart of York Region annually. Jazz+ means the Aj+F includes all possible arts and music genres from Reggae to Rock; First Nations to World Music, Canadian Funk, Blues and Jazz. Local visual artists display and perform live painting in park, while diverse vendors prepare and serve foods of the world. Enjoy great music, art, culture, food, beer/wine, kids' crafts, shopping and the ambiance of the beautiful heritage Town Park setting located in the cultural core of Aurora, in the centre of York Region. For more information, visit [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com).

AUGUST 14 - 25

Theatre Aurora presents "Private Lives", Noel Coward's 1930 romantic comedy. It focuses on a divorced couple who discover that they are honeymooning with their new spouses in neighbouring rooms at the same hotel. Despite a perpetually stormy relationship, they realise that they still have feelings for each other. What happens next? Directed by Sal Aguila and produced by Natasha Viskosky. The show runs August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25. Curtain at 8 p.m. This is the first show of the 2012-13 season, our 55th season. Visit the Theatre Aurora web-site [www.theatreaurora.com](http://www.theatreaurora.com) for further information. Tickets are currently available by buying a season subscription. Public sale of individual show tickets begins July 3. They will be available online through the web-site, by phone at 905-727-3669, by email at [taboxoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:taboxoffice@bellnet.ca) or in person at the Theatre. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

The Aurora Historical Society and Hillary House will host "Camp Map It! Olympics" the third and final event of Camp Hillary for kids ages seven - 11. Cost is \$15 for the day or \$35 for all three camps. Pre-registration is required and there is a maximum of 20 kids per camp. Camp runs from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991. (Rain Date: September 2)

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**Representatives from 20 local charities and service clubs gave a rousing "YEE-HAW!" on Thursday at the official kick-off for the annual Magna Wild West Hoedown. The groups are busy selling event and raffle tickets around York Region in the lead-up to the event, and all proceeds raised in this, York Region's biggest annual fundraiser, will be divided amongst them for various projects. They were joined at the kickoff by Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi, and Magna CEO Don Walker.**

Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Habitat to benefit from Hoedown cash

**From page 1**  
Optimist Club of Aurora, Pulsar's Gymnastics, Victim Services of York Region, York North Family Resource Programs, and York Support Services Network.

"Hoedown has become the largest and favourite community event in York Region, raising over \$5 million for charities, not-for-profits, and community partners," said organizer Steve Hinder to the recipients on Thursday. "I want to thank you folks for all the work that you do in the community to make our community strong and supportive of the families who live here."

This was a message that was reinforced by Magna CEO Don Walker, who said that these charities and groups make a community a true community.

Since Hoedown's inception, Mr. Walker said Magna has put in over \$12.5 million of its own money into running the community event, and it is a decision they make every year, following in the footsteps of founder Frank Stronach, who enshrined Magna's goal to be an active member of the community into its corporate constitution.

Mr. Walker told The Auroran that as \$500,000 is brought to the table by Magna out of pocket every year when they hold the annual event (with the exception of 2010), it will continue to happen as long as Magna "continues to be a successful company [they] can afford to put it on as long as it is appreciated."

"It's a sell-out every year because people perceive it as a fun night and it is a good party," said Mr. Walker. "I think the num-

ber of people we have volunteer and put the effort into it that they do is because so much good comes out of it.

"People look at the charities and all the money that goes there, so if you look overall, I think you had to have the vision of Frank Stronach and Belinda Stronach to actually do something of this magnitude, which has grown over the years. You need to have the support of the community volunteers."

While the charities hope to use the proceeds from the event, and in particular their individual ticket sales - each group has tickets, for \$70 each on sale now, so get them while they last - to expand their current programs, operations, and begin new initiatives, at least one group's grant will go towards creating something permanent here in Aurora.

Habitat for Humanity of York Region plans to use their share of the proceeds to build up to three homes in Aurora in the upcoming Daniels development near Bayview and St. John's Sideroad with a construction goal set for next year.

According to Bryon Disera, Habitat for Humanity's operations manager, between one to three homes will be built in the development and this is a reflection of better relations between the Town and the charity, which builds affordable houses for families in need.

"The last time [Habitat] looked into doing it was probably about five or six years ago, but the whole affordable [housing] issue has changed with the Council and the Mayor over the last few years, so

they're looking at putting in a lot more affordable housing.

"It was more of a municipal issue at the time. There wasn't the awareness in Aurora at the time either, but it has become a real issue over the last seven to ten years. Now it is more in the forefront so the general demographics and general populations have kind of warmed up to the fact there is a need for it."

While he said there is still the perception that Aurora is a highly affluent community, it has been tempered by the realization that there is also a growing problem of homelessness across York Region.

While talks between Habitat and Daniels are on hold for the time being on the fine details of the home construction, Mr. Disera said as things stand now the builders will put up the shell of the house and Habitat's team of volunteers will finish the job. Typically the groups get the materials at cost and then it is up to the volunteers.

This is the first year they will receive money from Hoedown, so the natural question was what it was about this year's application that put them over the top.

"Persistence, maybe?" said Mr. Disera with a laugh. "I think, once again, the attitude in York Region has changed a little bit. Affordable housing is becoming an issue. There was a need for it and we need the funding to do this kind of stuff. That is how it has been in the past and now it is out in the forefront."

In addition to this year's selected charities,

event and raffle tickets are also available through Neighbourhood Network and Jonathan's Restaurant. For more information, visit [www.hoedown.ca](http://www.hoedown.ca).

## Briefly

### NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

If you know of Aurorans who should be recognized for their services to the community, the Town of Aurora is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Community Recognition Awards. The awards are intended to recognize salute individuals, businesses, and groups who have done good works. Nomination forms can be picked up at Town Hall or online at [www.aurora.ca/2012communityawards](http://www.aurora.ca/2012communityawards). Completed forms must be received by mail by Friday, September 21. Categories include the Bob Harman Memorial Award, the Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award, the Civic Appreciation Award, Outstanding Achievement Award (for both individuals and non-profit groups), the Good Neighbour Award, and Youth Volunteer Achievement Award.

### WHEN TO WATER

With the extreme heat Aurora and the rest of southern Ontario has been experiencing over the past two weeks, residents are reminded that York Region's outdoor water use bylaws are now in effect through September 30. For Aurora, outdoor water use is permitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., and in the evenings from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is a one month grace period provision for new sod and seed. "Before you put out the sprinkler and let it soak, be sure you know your local municipality's outdoor water-use bylaw," said the Region of York. "All Regional municipalities stipulate that odd house numbers may use water outdoors only on odd numbered days of the month and even house numbers may use water outdoors on even numbered days of the month."



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# Watts the Frequency?

Some of my earliest memories are of having one hand fused to either a crayon or a lump of modeling clay while the other hand was busy assembling L E G O bricks or navigating a computer keyboard.



100+ WATTS

Christopher Watts

I suppose for lack of a better title I am a Design engineer. This unique path requires a high level of engagement with those that consider themselves neither creative nor technical. Regardless of where one places oneself along this spectrum there is a constant recognition that digital changes everything.

Continued on page 15

Follow Christopher on twitter@WattsTrending

## Letters to the editor

### Outdoor Watering Woes

York Region has started the summer outdoor water use bylaws. People are to water based on the day of the week if their number coincides based on odd/even.

I walk very early in the morning in Aurora, and there are people that have sprinklers that run every day, clearly not following the bylaw. I was a little discouraged to notice that the Mayor lives on a street where citizens clearly disregard the bylaw every year, and

they have the sprinklers set to water pavement! I would have hoped that our Mayor would lead by example and let his neighbours know that they are breaking a very important bylaw.

Our Mayor, Mr. Dawe, represents the people of Aurora and he needs to make sure that we have water for emergencies and for daily personal use, not to over saturate the grass with water on a daily basis.

J. Mills  
Aurora

### Sunday Canada Days

It has come to my attention that the federal government has passed a law that states that if July 1 falls on a Sunday then the stores should remain open but then close on Monday.

I didn't believe this until I saw the stores open on Sunday. I can't understand why such a law could ever be passed by someone who loves their country. This should be a mandatory holiday no

matter which day it falls on. The festivities in Ottawa were probably enjoyed by federal employees watching through their office windows. Nice way to celebrate.

Please rescind this law so that all of us can celebrate our wonderful country together.

Diane Schedlich  
Aurora



To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to [letters@auroran.com](mailto:letters@auroran.com) – deadline for submissions is Saturday at 1 p.m.

## And step around the heart of it...

How are you enjoying the summer construction season so far?

Judging by the looks on many of your faces as you struggled to get through the Yonge and Wellington intersection on Friday as repair work lumbered on, I'm probably a fool to ask.

As you undoubtedly know, the traffic was often limited over the course of last week - and is probably going to continue to be so for the next little while - as the Region rebuilds Wellington Street West and makes some additional repairs.

The cacophony of road construction is something we're all used to by now, especially in York Region, but the added chorus of jackhammers, coupled with the record smashing heat, conspired to make for some very glum looking faces trying to get through.

I wasn't standing out there, however, to keep watch over inevitable road rage situations, nor was I out there to get a tan (a lost cause, anyway), or because I am a masochist with a yen for traffic fumes, migraine-inducing sounds, and angry drivers.

As you can see on our front page, we were waiting out there for the arrival of Andrew Metcalfe, as he continued his Pink Portage mission through York Region en route to Toronto and eventually Windsor from Kingston (by way of Ottawa).

Many of us, both here in Aurora and in Newmarket, set up a makeshift network to figure out just when exactly this trailblazer would be passing through the area. The last time we checked, his online GPS tracker had him pegged somewhere around Innisfil Beach Road and heading south. The winner of the challenge was Heather Mallet of the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society who spotted him on her way home from work to Holland Landing, so all the necessary connections were made thanks to her.

With that accomplished, I got a text



### BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

message from this cancer fundraiser around 7.30 a.m. as he set out on his day's trek from Holland Landing. Due to an early morning plug on Breakfast Television, his barebones but effective website went down and the GPS tracking system went down as well, making tracking his progress rather difficult. He surfaced just before 1 p.m. at the Highland GM dealership, so the countdown was on and we figured it would probably be about 40 minutes until he passed our office.

Wrong. It probably would have been a decent guess had not good people at the King Henry's Arms pulled out all the stops in their well-honed reputation for hospitality to give Andrew a hearty lunch and some time to recoup. We eventually met outside of what was Thompson's Furniture Store just before 3 p.m.

In that short period of time he was here, no less than three carfuls of fuming passengers, suddenly lost their dour expressions as they waited to make their way through the intersection and upon site of the pink canoe, streaking through the light was no longer their chief objective. They wanted to know why this seemingly crazy person was carrying a canoe through downtown Aurora with little more than a shallow creek in site.

As they learned more about the mission - with some even getting out of their cars to sign a message of goodwill on the vessel's hull, they got

back into their cars with smiles on their faces and maybe with the kernel of an idea to go online later and make a pledge.

Had traffic not been delayed, would they have even taken notice of the eye-catching boat? Who knows? Maybe they would have, but they probably would not have had time to think to stop.

Before settling in for the evening, I flipped on PBS and there was a documentary somehow relating to Winston Churchill.

In it, one of his biographers told a story of once likening the River Thames to silver thread stitched not just through the city of London but through all of English history. As I thought about it, that could apply to Yonge and Wellington too.

For all our complaining about the traffic, the noise, and the fumes - and even suggestions from the York Regional Police and other authorities that it might be a good idea to move some of the action off Yonge and down Wellington Street east - it truly is the heart of Aurora.

We keep hearing suggestions that due to the rampant development in the east, Yonge and Wellington is no longer the centre of town. Geographically they might be right. They could also use population patterns to bolster their theory, but wherever Aurora's centre and downtown now lies, its heart is still at this much maligned intersection.

One only needs to turn to the crowds that flocked to the street when the Olympic torch passed through Town on that blustery January day in 2010, to the highly successful Santa Under the Stars extravaganzas, and most recently during the Canada Day Parade.

"Sure, but it's just another street when it's not closed for a parade," you might say.

To that argument, I point to Andrew's one-man trek through the "centre" of Town.

THE AURORAN

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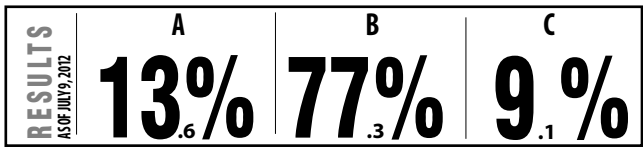
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# Poll Results



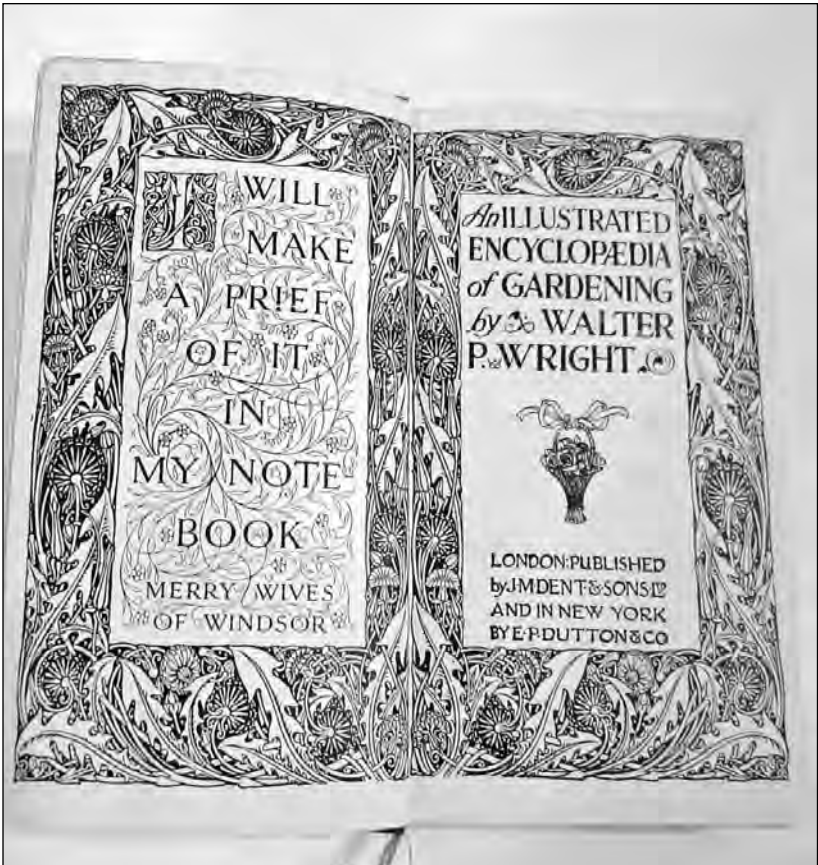
## NEW POLL www.theauroran.com

*Aurora is considering ways to celebrate the Town's 150th birthday next year. While a number of events could be in the pipeline, debate has surrounded who should plan the festivities.*

*Who do you think should oversee the plans?*

- a) A Project manager costing upwards of \$60,000?
- b) A volunteer citizen committee
- c) Don't Know

*Please participate in our POLL –go to www.theauroran.com, scroll down and look to the bottom right of the home page to VOTE.*



This beautifully engraved book is a first edition of *An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Gardening* by Walter P. Wright, printed as part of the Everyman's Library collection. Everyman's Library was conceived by J. M Dent, a bookbinder and publisher, and Ernest Rhys, a poet and editor, in 1905. Their vision was to produce a collection of 1,000 of the greatest books available throughout the world that would be presented in an attractive but affordable edition. The books in the Everyman's Library collection were divided into 13 categories, each of which had an assigned colour for the binding. Books with the special leatherette binding were originally sold for two shillings—twice the price of books with the standard binding. This book is currently displayed as part of the 150 Artefacts for 150 Years exhibit at Hillary House. If you are interested in adopting this or any other item in the Aurora Historical Society's fundraising initiative, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991.

## Ottawa Report

Our Government is working hard at making the critical choices that result in positive change in the lives of all Canadians. Here are some of our most recent:

New pro-consumer oversight on banking complaints has been announced by Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance. Landmark regulations will help consumers resolve banking disputes in a more timely, impartial and transparent manner. The sweeping new rules will give more power to consumers looking to resolve a dispute with their bank by creating a stronger, more independent consumer complaint system.

This will happen by putting in place, for the first time ever, a new framework that sets pro-consumer standards all banks and authorized foreign banks must meet, along with federal government supervision of the external complaints body's compliance with the new regulations. It will spell out the high standards that an external complaints body must meet in order to facilitate the resolution of disputes. By bringing clarity to the requirements external complaints bodies must meet, consumers can expect timely, impartial and trans-

parent resolution of disputes.

**The Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund** was announced by Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

Community and recreational facilities will be eligible for repairs and upgrades through the Fund. FedDev Ontario will support, on a cost-shared basis, repairs and improvements to existing community infrastructure that is accessible for use by the public.

Local, regional and First Nation governments, as well as not-for-profit organizations with projects that can be completed before March 31, 2014 are invited to apply for funding. Eligible recipients may receive contributions of up to \$1 million and must leverage a minimum of 50 per cent of funding from other sources. Applications must be submitted by August 24, 2012.

**Government Says No to Fees on**



LOIS BROWN

MP Newmarket-Aurora

**Memory Cards**, and will put in place regulations exempting microSD memory cards from copyright levies. MicroSD memory cards are removable memory devices commonly used in smart phones. The Minister of Industry will request that the Governor-in-Council introduce regulations this fall to exempt these

items. Our government is committed to building a strong and vibrant Canadian digital economy, the cornerstone of which must be the widespread adoption of cutting-edge digital technologies.

**Action is being taken to protect temporary foreign workers** from the risk of abuse and exploitation in sex trade related businesses. As of July 14th, Citizenship and Immigration Canada will no longer process new work permit applications from temporary foreign workers intending to work for sex trade related businesses—namely strip clubs, escort services and massage parlours.

Denying these businesses access to temporary foreign workers will help protect vulnerable individuals by keeping them out of these types of situations.

**June's job numbers showed positive job growth** for the fourth consecutive month with +7,300 net new jobs created. The over +765,000 net new jobs created since July 2009 (90% full-time and nearly 80% private sector) are positive signs we're on the right track for jobs and economic growth in Canada.

However, we know the global economy remains fragile and challenges persist and Canada is not immune. That's why Economic Action Plan 2012 takes responsible action to grow the economy, while keeping taxes low and returning to balanced budgets. We are focused on what matters to Canadians - creating jobs, promoting economic growth, and ensuring long-term prosperity.

*If you would like to contact me on these or any other issue, please call 905.953.7515 or email Lois.Brown@parl.gc.ca. I would love to hear from you.*

## Reader Responses

Over the last few weeks I have been writing about my favourite columns out of the two hundred and fifty nine that I have penned since 2006.

I have also written my sixth column regarding customer service (or the lack thereof) in Aurora.

Both of these items have solicited quite a few reader responses.

I will share two of them with you.

My third favourite was originally published back in November of 2007 and the reason for my fondness is that the Gambell family was such a delight.

The column was entitled, "As I recall it" and was about Clifford, who was an eighty-nine year old World War II veteran who lived in Barrie with his wife of sixty-six years, Pat.

My association with Cliff and his wife dated back to a column I wrote about the Remembrance Day displays at Devins Drive Public School.

I wrote at the time that there were lots of interesting displays to view; but one small exhibit caught my attention; student Tyler McKechnie's work featured some wartime memorabilia of one of his uncles.

Tyler's mother, Andrea

McKechnie, saw the column, cut it out of the newspaper and passed it on to her mother, Pat Gambell, who, after reading it, gave me a call. I then met with Cliff and Pat.

On June 11th I received the following e-mail from Andrea McKechnie:

*Hello Stephen,*

*I'm Cliff Gambell's daughter, Andrea. I just wanted to send you a quick email with regards to your column of May 29th "Third Favourite" column which was quite a pleasant surprise to see again.*

*Growing up we never heard much about Dad's war years, I think he felt his daughters shouldn't hear about such things but as time went on and we all got older the memories have been told, both on video and written down. I find it interesting to read about my Dad at a time when he was a young man and the experiences he had that shaped his future and of course his love for my Mom.*

*Just last week he was telling me again*



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

*about the incident that made him decide to stop being a dispatch rider. I'm glad he is still here to tell our youngest son Tyler (his grandson) who is now 13 about his experiences. Tyler joined Army Cadets last September and like his grandfather, he is quite the marksman. Dad likes to say "It must be in the genes."*

*I'm pleased to say that my parents are still both with us. Dad turned 92 last December and is doing very well. They both still live in the same home in Barrie, quite determined to stay there although we wish Dad would accept some help in the house. My Mom has not fared so well and Dad must now do the shopping and meal preparation with help and guidance from my sisters and me.*

*Thank-you again for taking the time to meet my parents and read and listen to my Dad's stories.*

*Best regards,  
Andrea McKechnie*

In early June, I again wrote about a subject that had been of increasing concern to me - the lack of adequate customer service in our society.

This time I wrote about the problems associated with getting my lawn mower repaired.

The saga took over a week to settle and gave me some more grey hairs, but it all worked out in the end. From my June 8th column:

"My story ended on a happy note because the employee at the hardware store had also given me a business card for a local engine repair company and after having dealt with the repair shop in Newmarket, I was able to get my mower repaired the next day."

This column resulted in a number of e-mails, with most writers wanting to know who the local engine repair company was.

The gentleman who assisted me was Gordon Davidson, the owner of "G.L. Small Engines" in Aurora. He can be reached at 905-717-7208.

**Stephen can be contacted at  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com**



# Aurora Seniors: Share your memories of Aurora to celebrate 150th birthday

Since arriving in Canada in 1952, I moved frequently. Growing up, it was about once a year. It didn't make much sense to me because my father stayed at one job until he retired in the 1970s.

We eventually stopped moving when I was in Grade 8, but not before we'd lived in north Toronto, Scarborough's Golden Mile, Willowdale, Keswick, and Aurora. I know I'm missing some.

Perhaps it was this constantly changing environment that made me nostalgic.

As an adult, I've made it a regular tradition to go back to some of those old homes to reminisce. Somehow, it's helped me to maintain perspective on where I'd come from, where I was at a particular time in my life, and where I was heading. It enabled a degree of consistency that I missed by all the moving.

Today, historic buildings help me to recapture some of those memories, because we lived in older neighborhoods.

You can imagine how my nostalgia went wild when I discovered Prescott, east of Brockville. This old town is filled with historical landmarks, including an 1812 fort, barracks and hospital. (No, I'm not quite that old.)

Aurora has similar landmarks and memories for me.

I'll be sharing a few of them with you here. Let me know about your memories of your earlier years in Aurora. Share them with our readers in celebration of Aurora's upcoming 150th Anniversary.

To get you started, here's one of mine.

In the 1950s, Aurora did not have a swimming pool, but it did have an arena on Yonge Street, since removed. It was situated in the dip south of Wellington Street.

It's funny how some things stick in your memory. One summer, we had tremendous heat, like we have now. I missed not being able to go swimming, having moved here from Lake Simcoe. One day, while playing on my front lawn on Mark Street, I prayed to God to turn the grass into a pool. Needless to say, it never happened.

The only water around was a small pond northeast of our house. Back then, Mark Street ended at Spruce which turned south. North and east was nothing but country. We trekked across the fields, over the railroad tracks and into the country to the pond (near where Industrial Parkway is today).

Other times, we crossed the field and sat by the railroad tracks to watch the trains.

I've since developed a love

of the old steam trains and their cabooses. The smell of the train and cressote railroad ties, the sound of the steam whistle, the thunder under foot as the iron mass passed, and the friendly waves we received from the engineer and crew are permanently fixed in my memory.

Want to learn more about Aurora's history? You've probably seen the Open Doors articles in The Auroran, detailing some of the historic buildings open to view. Summer is here and the tours will begin soon.

In the meantime, you can tour my old neighborhood north of Wellington east. Many houses have been designated historical and proudly display the plaques giving the house name and date. Pick up a pamphlet from the Aurora Historical Society.

I love this part of town, not only because I once lived there, but because of the distinctive older homes.

What are your stories?

**Aurora Seniors bring in a taste of Mardi Gras**



## SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

In 1991, I was given the exciting opportunity to travel to New Orleans, the jazz capital of America. We didn't go during Mardi Gras, but I did get a flavor of this unique city. Jazz music flowed through almost every door on Bourbon Street. Shops displayed beads, clothing that celebrates the town's history, souvenirs, masks worn by revelers during Mardi Gras, and much more.

On August 10, the Aurora Seniors' Centre will be holding a Mardi Gras evening, with music and dancing. They've named it Night of Dixie with the Jambalaya Dixieland Jazz Band. Perhaps you've always wanted to go to the jazz capital to the south. Well, this event is the next best thing, with lively music and dancing.

There's plenty of time to tell you this news, but I figure you'd probably want to start preparing your costume, as

they are strongly encouraged. Of course, you can wear whatever you want (except your PJs, I guess), but it'll be so much more fun if guests help create the happy environment that New Orleans represents.

You have about a month to get busy looking for or creating that special Mardi Gras costume. Don't forget the beads, masks and other accessories. Let's get excited and celebrate as never before.

*For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web-site [www.auroraseniors.ca](http://www.auroraseniors.ca), email [auroraseniors@rogers.com](mailto:auroraseniors@rogers.com) or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday*

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## Your Stuff.

## Letters to the editor

### Art in the Park survived the rain

'We had a special event in our community on Saturday July 7 at our Town Park.

This year Kerry's Place celebrated its fifth annual Family Appreciation Day with lots of activities, from horse drawn wagon rides, barbeques, musical performances and variety of children's activities.

My special art project, "Hearts In Hands Together" for Kerry's Place, was an interactive children to adult paint on canvas project. Eight paintings were created by those wishing to express their inner fun and whimsy. I've had the honour to coordinate Art in the Park 2012 for my third year.

We had some amazing musical talent for the rocker inside of all of us. The "Woodchuck Woodchip

Tour" featured "ZiNGALO" musicians Dave Renton, Jas Carvin, Pat Scott and Ted Hill. This band came all the way from Barrie and performed for the second year with their classic rock appeal. Zingalo surprised us all performing live for the first time a very special Kerry's Place song. Aurora unleashed "Mad Dog & Pup", Paul Jones and Steve Davey, local Aurora musicians in their blues style. Steve will be touring in the USA soon while Paul continues to manufacture his resonator guitars.

Every Tuesday evening for the past seven years Jonathan's Restaurant hosts the Song Circle, a fabulous group of musicians founded by Patty

McLaughlin. It's a real pleasure to have Patty perform her folk style music and ballads at Art in the Park along with Paul Snow."

A beautiful addition to Art In The Park was Denise Waskel proudly watch her son, Angel, fundraise through his paintings for Kerry's Place. There was so much love for this event and I'm thrilled everyone braved the early rain to come out to Art in the Park 2012 for Aurora's Farmers Market & Kerry's Place. A big thank you to Jennifer Adams and Cheryl Bolton of Kerry Place for a fun filled day.

**Deborah Campo  
Aurora**

## They built it, but...

Moving into The Victorian and just a short stroll for my walker are two ball diamonds in Machell Park, but no games. I hear that soccer has outgrown all pitches in Town. Since the Machell (south) ball diamond alignment is wrong - the sun setting is dangerous to play into - why not convert this into a much-needed soccer pitch? I'd like to watch some soccer too!

Norm Weller  
Aurora

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# Newmarket neighbours want voice in 2C development

By Brock Weir

Aurora often enjoys a harmonious relationship with its neighbours to the north, but a new development that backs onto Newmarket is leaving some of its residents feeling left out in the cold.

When a public planning meeting was recently held to discuss the 2C lands, the significant residential and business development that will take up much of Aurora's northeast corner along the border with Newmarket down to Wellington Street from the 404 to Bayview Avenue, the Council chamber was packed.

While some were Aurora residents there to express concerns over the environmental impacts of the new residential developments and of potential issues that could be caused by the extension of Hartwell Way to Leslie Street, much of the audience was Newmarket residents who back directly onto the land in question.

"Our house orientation is east-west rather than north-south, which is the orientation like most of the other homes along the Town boundary," said Newmarket-resident Colin Empke. "That means that as a result of this plan I am going to have four or five homes built along my lot line. I am unique, I think, in our house happens to be built at the bottom of a hill. The Mattamy Aurora lands are significantly higher in elevation than my lot, which means that I have significant concerns about drainage.

"I have some significant concerns about shadow and as far as I can tell from the materials I don't see any evidence that there have been drainage studies sufficient to satisfy me not to be concerned about water coming down this hill into my house and I certainly haven't seen any evidence that there have been shadow studies that a two storey house built at the top of a hill next to my home is not going to have an adverse affect on my sunlight access, especially in the winter time. That is not unique to my lot."

Indeed, few concerns were expressed by the Newmarket residents looking into Aurora, over the homes themselves, but more over the challenges the area's topography presents, particularly with drainage. Keith King, representing the Windham Village Homeowners Association, a neighbourhood on the border just off Bayview said that his group had concerns that the planned development did not comply with legislation over the interface between the two towns, specifically in terms of lot sizes, drainage, fencing, landscaping, and "a sensitive fence line of trees immediately behind the properties in Newmarket."

"There is a pretty significant hill and the draft plan does not show any changes to that hill," said Mr. King.

"We perceive the groundwater runoff we're experiencing already where groundwater will pool behind some properties we anticipate that will continue.

"The [proposed] stormwater management pond is actually a higher elevation than some of these lots, so we're not sure how they're going to get water to travel upwards in the drainage swale. It is located on private properties in the plan and we certainly don't understand how they will ensure the swale will remain operational unless there is some easement."

In addition to the drainage issues, Newmarket residents also expressed concern with the number of trees that would be required to make way for these developments.

Although they gave credit for the number of green spaces that are going to be preserved by the developers once it is approved by Aurora Council, their message was once they are cut you can't go back.

"Newmarket has made some similar mishaps in the past when forest was cut down on Mulock for development," said Malcolm Watts. "Mature trees take a very long time to grow. I think someone must speak for them.

"I have heard people say when they talk to the planning departments they will say they will plan more trees, well some of those trees might be 100 years old. Those things are precious to the environment, and just to the quality of life and the overall complexion of the community at large. I am not in favour of seeing York Region become like Brampton where you can drive for 45 minutes and see nothing but one subdivision after another. I am not against development, per se, but I am aware that there are pressures on the natural environment and it is being sacrificed too often."

While residents were not shy about their concerns, they were less than convinced their voices would matter at the end of the day.

"I'm still a little uncomfortable with how the rights of the people in Newmarket will be protected in all of this," said Lisa Thomas. "We

aren't your constituents and I don't see how the timelines play out and how we're going to be advised, other than as an interested party as things play out. I don't know how much input we're going to have.

"There are trees on that property that I look out at every day out of my back door and one of the large trees on that property is the home of a brown eagle that has been nesting there the past two years. That tree won't be there next year."

In response to the drainage issues, Don Given, a representative of all the residential developers in the 2C area, said he was aware of the issue and engineers have shown how a transition will be made. That will be made available in the coming months to residents, he said.

"Certainly the municipality is not going to let drainage become an issue for somebody," he said.

Additional measures to be taken include a tree protection plan to address which - and how - trees can be saved and, upon the discussion of the brown eagle, that is one more thing that merits further discussion, he added.

"We have known for months there is a drainage issue," said Mr. Given. "We're trying to take all that information together and come up with a comprehensive plan that you will accept and that will be acceptable to Newmarket residents."

From the Town's perspective, Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning said that any drainage for new development will have to occur and be maintained on the Aurora lands.

"There will be no stormwater runoff to the lands to the north in Newmarket. There will be a stormwater pipe system installed and there will be swales that will collect that water and that will be maintained on the proposed development through gravity flow down to the municipal system and out to the storm ponds."

Newmarket residents will continue to have input into the plan as interested parties, he added.



**These Aurorans found a creative way to beat the heat on Thursday and make some dough in the process by selling homemade lemonade and fresh baked cookies in Chapman Park (McMaster Avenue and Baywell Crescent). Although Claudia Da Silva, Joy Sweerts, Jared Sweerts, and Carmen Da Silva only made about \$10, they plan to be back in business on a hot weekend when the park is hopping. Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

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I want to share my story. My back pain was horrible. I tried pain medication at first. But it didn't provide lasting relief. It hurt so bad I couldn't even pick up my children without wincing from the pain. I went to my doctor but he told me I would just have to live with the pain and take muscle relaxants and painkillers whenever my pain became bad. But it only got worse.

I tried physiotherapy and massage too - but without lasting relief.

I was about to look into surgery when I spoke to a friend who suggested I try a different approach that had worked for him.

My friend told me he found great information about back pain from a complimentary workshop he attended. He told me he learned effective ways to get rid of his pain. And it

worked for him!

I admit it seemed too good to be true. But it obviously worked for my friend. Regardless, I went to the workshop and learned a lot. I applied what I learned and gave it a little time. I can now honestly say my back pain is a thing of the past. It's remarkable.

You are likely frustrated by having to suffer with ongoing back pain or stiffness. But you may also be concerned on your dependency on pain pills ... and their possible side effects.

You may have heard that there can be serious health risks associated with regular use, or over-use, of pain pills. These risks include damage to the liver, kidneys or gut. I learned that although the pain killing drugs are designed to numb the pain they do

not correct the underlying root causes of most back pain.

Most doctors focus on medications or physiotherapy to give relief but sufferers need to be aware that there are additional choices available for most cases of back pain that are effective, natural and safe.

To help sufferers an upcoming workshop is scheduled to reveal ways to provide lasting back pain relief by addressing the problem at its root. This eye opening information has helped many sufferers change their lives forever.

As a community service this workshop is free. The workshop will be held on Wed July 18 from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd., Unit 10, Richmond Hill. Seating is limited.

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Aurora resident Robert Bertram was named one of the newest Officers of the Order of Canada last weekend by Governor General David Johnston. Mr. Bertram was recognized for his contributions to industry, commerce, and business in the announcement which recognized 70 Canadians to one of Canada’s most prestigious honours. As head of the Ontario Teachers Pension Fund, his unconventional leadership saw the fund grow to over \$108 billion in assets.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

# Making a career out of taking risks

## Aurora man named Officer of the Order of Canada

By Brock Weir

So, how does a small boy growing up on farm in small-town Saskatchewan eventually build the Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan into a \$108 billion behemoth?

By taking risks, said Robert Bertram, a resident of Aurora, and one of the latest batch of worthy Canadians recently appointed to the Order of Canada by Governor General David Johnston.

Mr. Bertram was named Officer of the Order of Canada in the June 30 honours list released to mark Canada Day.

He arrived at the Ontario Teacher's Pension Fund, which has counted companies as diverse as Cadillac Fairview (think the Eaton Centre and a host of other malls across Canada) and Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment under their umbrella from Alberta Government Telephones (AGT), a precursor to Telus.

It was at AGT, where he was responsible for three funds totalling \$4 billion that he "fell in love with the management of funds and pension funds." It was the start of a fitting love affair; he said, as he had a much better knack of managing money than managing people.

"The problem I saw with Teachers was when it was created in 1989, up until that time it had been funded by government bonds [so] what it consisted of is an IOU basically for \$50 million," said Mr. Bertram of the tough talk he gave Teachers, which he suspects helped him land the job.

"Over the lifetime of that fund up until 1989 they had accumulated \$15 billion worth of IOUs and I said to the new board that what they have is a set of IOUs that you can't sell, you have to keep those until they mature, and the rest of the contributions from now on will come to you in cash. I said that's foolish. You don't

want to be 99 per cent on a fixed income. I was the only candidate who explained to the board that they could have a proper portfolio structure without selling the bonds and we did it with derivatives. That was truly a first."

Pension funds, he said, had previously "dabbled" in using derivatives, but the direction he took the Teachers' Pension Plan in was the first in the way they did it. Having basically reinvented the wheel in a pension fund's ability to diversify, its market value went from about \$16 billion in real assets, to its peak in 2008 at \$108 billion. From his perspective, this was achieved through forward thinking.

"The future is always uncertain," he said. "What you need to do when you do your investing is make sure you don't lock yourself in a paradigm, you believe this is the way the future is going to unfold because once you start doing that you go down that path and if the future goes somewhere else you're in big trouble."

"It's all about strategy and making sure you have a view that you can adjust to the circumstances, but investing is also a long-term game, especially for funds the size of Teachers. You have to worry about assets you're going to own for 10 or 15 years so you have to have that worldview that you look through the short term uncertainty, you look through the problems Europe is having and say what is the probability of Europe really falling apart. If it is not that high, move on with your investment because there are some great bargains."

It is this risk taking - and perhaps even looking for bargains here and there - that Mr. Bertram indicates is a key to his success. With several people reporting to him on key aspects of the Teachers' portfolio, Mr. Bertram said he always encouraged people not to be

afraid of taking the risk.

"But," he added, "in doing so, they had to be able to measure them."

"You couldn't just take wild guesses; you had to be able to say these are the risks I am taking. I said if you're going to be good at the investment business you understand very quickly that risk diversifies if you have a number of idiosyncratic risks they diversify but the returns on those risks add up, so you have a high risk investment you expect a high return."

For Mr. Bertram, the leap from the farm to a highly successful investor was not much of a leap at all. A native of Eston, Saskatchewan, he went to school in the Town until reaching Grade 7 when his parents bought a home in Calgary and then divided his time going to school in the city and then returning to farm with his father during the summer.

"As much as I loved farming, I didn't see much of a future in it for me, so I got a job and started on the technical road working at the telephone company in Calgary," he said, but the lessons on the farm stuck with him.

"It's a pretty direct connection - on a farm you learn a lot of discipline. It's a tough life and tough to make money and you're taking on all kinds of uncertainty. You learn to live with uncertainty and I think of all the lessons you learn on a farm, hard work, you're risking."

"In the 50s, I can remember when [the crops] were totally wiped out by a hail storm, the entire year's work was wiped out so you learn the disciplines of running a small business. There's a certain amount of prudence and frugality that you learn growing up and you live with the rest of your life."

Having retired from Teachers in 2008, Mr. Bertram divides his time on the boards of directors of various companies and

organization, and currently chairs Glass Lewis LLP, a prominent governance policy company, which keeps an eye on management of large companies and its relation to its owners - shareholders.

He said management is responsible to the owners but in many cases that doesn't happen. Although he is too diplomatic to name names, he said he had a few examples in mind. Managers today are often paid "inappropriately relative" to their performance and shareholders have often earned "very little to nothing" over the past 10 years but management salaries have doubled.

"Shareholders don't mind management getting paid millions of dollars as long as it is aligned with their interests," he said. "What they hate is them getting paid millions and millions of dollars and the shareholders get nothing."



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# Too hot to bake? Stop by the Farmers' Market!

School's out, summer's here and the tables at the Farmers' Market are piled high with beautiful fresh, local fruit and vegetables.

Luscious strawberries have been available for a few weeks and are now joined by the first raspberries of the season and dark red cherries. A wider variety of berries will follow soon. In the heat that we have experienced lately, most people won't want to bake, so try these gorgeous berries with the thick, rich Greek yogurt that is all the rage.

Now, let me introduce you to one of our artisans.

Anna Kroeplin, last year's "Chair Extraordinaire", as I call her, produces custom and original mosaic works of art. She has been an active artist since 2008, having been taught by her aunt, Donna Lieberman, whose work is featured at Maple Stone Gallery in Creemore.

Her friends encouraged Anna to sell her pieces at the Farmers' Market where she now has an interesting and enthusiastic client base. She enjoys working with her clients to interpret their vision and bring it to fruition.

She also occasionally runs workshops with groups or individuals to encourage their artistic side by smashing tiles and reworking them into something beautiful.

Anna's pieces are considered "repurposed" as she uses recycled materials in most of them – such as the yin yang design's backing once being a neighbour's kitchen counter and the welcome signs typically being mounted on old cupboard doors. She is able to create both indoor and outdoor pieces, including truly



## MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

unique mosaic mailboxes which you will see about Town.

It is not uncommon for her to find a container of old or end-of-the-line tiles left at her house by generous friends and family for her to use in another inventive mosaic work of art.

Anna will be at the Market once a month this season including July 14, August 25, September 8 and October 13. Do visit her booth to see her beautiful pieces!

In addition to farmers, artisans and food vendors, we also play host to a variety of community groups at different times during the season. One of these is the Optimist Club of Aurora, a volunteer service club.

The Aurora club is part of Optimist International, formed over 100 years ago to raise funds for youth projects within the community. The Aurora Optimist Club maintains a booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair to raise awareness of who they are and that their mandate involves directing all funds raised toward youth projects in our Town.

The club, having recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, has developed or funded many youth programmes or facilities in Aurora over the years. A few of these are a youth theatre, a mobile skateboard park, a beach volleyball court, and oratorical and essay contests.

Although the Optimist Club's booth is manned by a series of volunteers, the face of the club at the Market is Bill Hack, a retired grandpa of five and a proud great-grandpa of one. His hobbies include: amateur singer/songwriter/guitar player; seniors hockey; candle mak-

ing; and woodworking. His wife, however, sometimes thinks that his life revolves around the Optimist Club.

His favourite rule in the Optimist Creed is "to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every creature you meet a smile". Seeing Bill around the Market, he certainly embodies this principle. Drop by their booth and, perhaps, buy a raffle ticket to support their good work in our community.

We close this week with a couple of housekeeping notes. The Aurora

Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair is extremely happy to have received an award from the Town for the best decorated float in the Canada Day parade and we say a big "thank you" to the Town, the volunteers who helped with the float, the musicians and to Frank Condlin who co-ordinated it all.

Also, we ask that you pay attention to the Town's parking signs when you visit the Market. Please do not park too close to the corner or block someone's driveway. Doing so will

result in you getting a ticket and people being upset with the Market. Therefore, your Market is asking for your consideration in where you park when attending the market and everyone will have a great day.

On a disappointing note, we have just been advised that Big Grill will no longer be coming to our Market now that their catering business has taken off—they will come one final time to say good-bye on July 14. Also, Cobs Bakery has lost the staff person

who looked after their booth at the Market and they will not be returning either. We are very sorry to see both of them leave.

Our next "Special Event" is on July 14th, when we are the opening event for "Doors Open". We will have a children's entertainer at the band shell until 10.30 a.m., at which time the Doors Open people will co-ordinate the entertainment. It promises to be an exciting day and we look forward to seeing you all at the Market!

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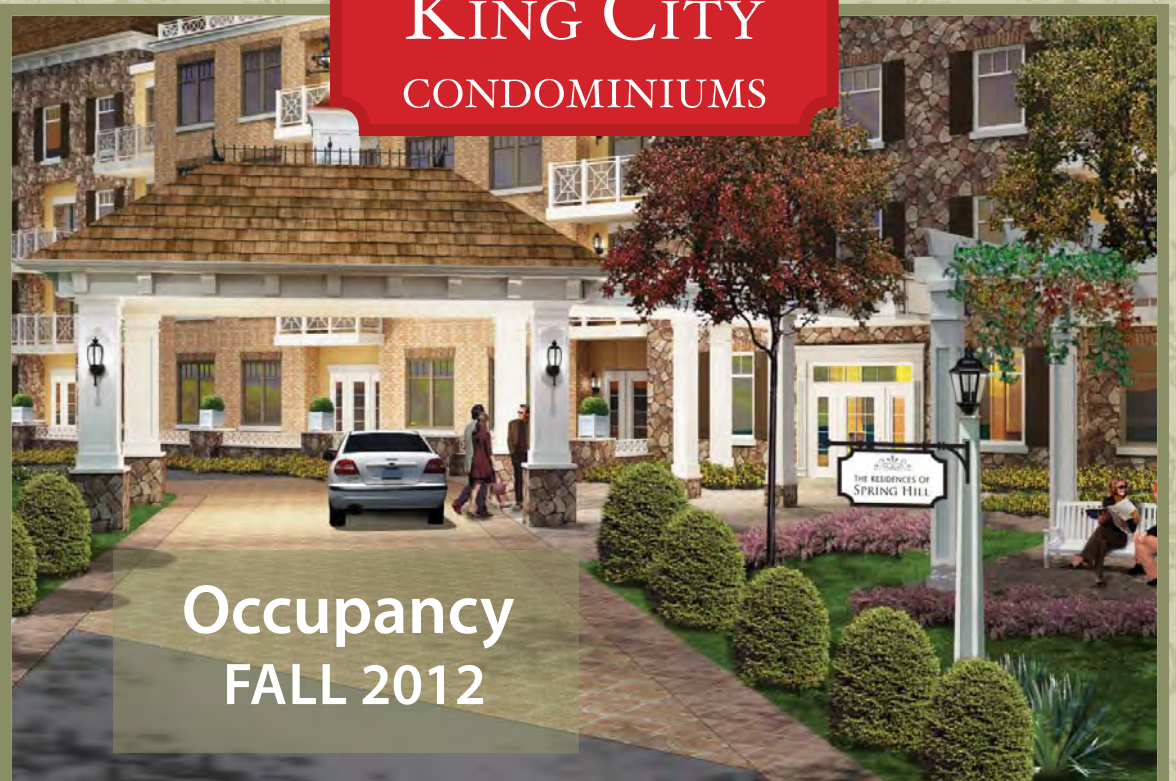
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## Aurora Seniors

### Duplicate Bridge Results

June 18

N/S  
1st - Carole Bell and Nan McLean  
2nd - Don Strupat and Pat Spear  
3rd - Yvonne Petersen and Joanne Binnington  
E/W  
1st - Don Newman and Murray Sinclair  
2nd - Simmo and Lisa Piil  
3rd - Tony Yap and Carole Watkins

June 25

N/S  
1st - Carol Gordon and Margaret Cyr  
2nd - Frank Lablans and Dennis McFadden  
3rd - Nan McLean and Joe Badali  
E/W  
1st - Inger Kamel and Priscilla Hull  
2nd - Zelma Shand and Betty Dyson  
3rd - Ev Dickie and Audrey Robertson



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==THE AURORAN==

Arts & Culture

# Actor makes directorial debut with Private Lives

By Brock Weir

When Sal Aguila, a multi-season actor with Theatre Aurora, wanted to direct, he picked up a copy of Noel Coward's *Private Lives*.

Despite the comedy making its debut over 80 years ago, there was just something about the play which resonated with the first time director. The 1930 work centres around two different sets of newlyweds honeymooning at the same hotel. The complication? The husband in one set and the wife in the other used to be married to each other, and their unexpected closeness stirs up those old embers.

"When I read it, it was really, really funny," said Mr. Aguila. "I read the play a number of times and I realised I understood the characters and I found that, at some point in my life I had experienced what every one had gone through.

Although the play is about 40 years older than he is, he believes its universal message of love conquers all, "as corny as it sounds", will resonate with audiences when the curtain opens for the first time on August 14.

"Love takes all different kinds of shapes," he said of the play's message. "Sometimes it is what you expect it to be and sometimes it is something completely different. Don't fight it. Don't run from it. Let it do its thing and you'll see that, in the end, it will win and life will be good."

Mr. Aguila, an Aurora resident and the owner of a Toronto-based property firm, first joined Theatre Aurora when he moved to Town in 2008. Having dabbled with various theatrical production companies in the Greater Toronto Area, he has since appeared in the company's productions of *Murder in Green Meadows*, which was his first show, as well as Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Harvey*, which closed

out their 2011-2012 season this spring.

"[Theatre Aurora] is not as large a club as some of the other places downtown and it is not as extensive, but there was a real sense of intimacy about it and everybody knew everybody and worked together," said Mr. Aguila of his arrival. "It felt like more of a community than some of the other places where I have been, where they feel like it is just a stepping stone to something else.

"It is about having fun and feeling comfortable and supported and these guys were just awesome at that."

But, does one enjoy those same feelings as an actor now being on the other side sitting in a director's chair? Mr. Aguila said in some ways it makes the job of a director easier because you know as an actor what you need to get from a director.

That being said, as a first time director he is now grappling with the tech crews working on the lighting, building sets, and making sure it is just right, responsibilities he did not have to shoulder when he was bringing plays to life as an actor.

"It's a very difficult experience, but there are a lot of people who are willing to help and have a lot of experience in the theatre, so I am in pretty good hands when it comes to that," he said, noting that it is helpful from his new perspective to know what the actors are going through.

"It's funny because as a director, sometimes you have got to have slightly less sympathy for them because you want them to do what you need them to do, but having been an actor you can actually figure out how to get that and make it happen because you understand their sensibilities and what they have to go through to create the characters."

While Mr. Aguila identifies with the

Continued on page 19



Multi-season Theatre Aurora actor Sal Aguila makes his directorial debut at the Factory Theatre next month with Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. Written in 1930, this classic play opens Theatre Aurora's 2012 - 2013 season. Mr. Aguila also acted in *Harvey*, which closed the last season this spring. Auroran photo by David Falconer

# Marquee hopes to expand with Hoedown cash

By Brock Weir

Some might say the third time's the charm, but for Aurora's Marquee Theatrical production, now it is becoming something of a routine.

The local theatrical company has been selected as one of the 20 charities to benefit from this year's Magna Wild West Hoedown, their third year running.

This year, the company hopes to use their share of the fund to increase programming to help budding thespians currently on their waitlist actually get into their programs and also create additional theatrical space right here in Aurora.

For larger productions, Marquee typically rents space from Newmarket Theatre, but if all goes according to plan, an expansion of their current Industrial Parkway North location could allow them to have most things under one roof.

"We have hopes and realities [of what we want to do with our money]," Sheryl Thomas of Marquee told The Auroran at Thursday's Hoedown Launch. "Our hope is to find another unit that is in our current location that we can take over and build an actual stage on there and we can do some of our youth programming presentations there.

"That would eventually help us cut down on our costs because renting a large theatre like Newmarket Theatre where we currently are is not necessarily cost-effective, but it gives the kids an awesome experience. If we had our own

facility to do the smaller productions, that is what we would really like to do. If we could double duty it as a rehearsal space and a little bit of recital space that is our optimum goal."

Ms. Thomas said the group loves their current location because it works so well in conjunction with other area amenities. For their camps, they have quick access to swim at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC). They are also able to use rooms at the AFLC for programming space as well. So, while their lease will be up in another year, they ideally would like to stay in the Aurora.

"Aurora is our Town," she said. "Until we have the funding and the money behind us, we can't really look [for a location]. Timing has a lot to play, but if we have to move in a year's time when our lease is up, we'll need a larger location somewhere in Aurora."

As for their wait lists, Marquee currently has two youth programs running right now for the summer, providing an outlet for over 70 kids in the camp. 10 are currently on the wait lists. Last year's waiting lists were extensive as well and then they had to add another program just to accommodate them.

Ms. Thomas said the tickets allocated to Marquee for the September 15 Wild West Hoedown are "flying out the door" and while they can be purchased from the Marquee Theatrical offices right now, they plan to sell further tickets in the near future at local LCBOs, Metro, and Upper Canada Mall.

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## KERRY'S PLACE & ART IN THE PARK



Local artists and musicians teamed up with the Aurora Farmers' Market and Kerry's Place Autism Services for a fun day in Town Park this Saturday. The occasion was the fifth annual Kerry's Place Appreciation Day, held in conjunction with Art at the Park, which recognized over 120 of Kerry's staff members and volunteers for their services to the group. (Left) Newmarket's Bob Arbucke entertained the crowds with his fiddle, while (right) Noah showed off his artistic talent with Amy from Kerry's Place. Artists and volunteers who participated in the event were (centre, front row) Angel Waskul, Cheryl Boston, Stephanie Davidson, Denise Waskul, and Stephanie, (middle row) Eva Folks, Deborah Campo, Sharon Kolinsky, Quincy Morrison St. Kitts, Linda Lehman, Sher St. Kitts, Serena, and Susan Welland, (back row) Graham Ames, David Rankine, Laurie Larson, Ryta Iannello, Herbert Pryke, Malcolm Watts, and Michael Dwyer.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

## Here's your chance to help plan Aurora's 150th

By Brock Weir

If you want to help Aurora celebrate its 150th anniversary, now's your chance - but some Aurora Councillors are still undecided about what the event, and the organizing committee, should entail.

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for a citizen member to sit on Aurora's Sesquicentennial Ad-Hoc committee which will oversee plans for the party. The position is open to any resident of Aurora over the age of 18 and the Town is looking for "candidates who represent a cross-section of the community" with a preference to those with "fundraising, grant writing, and special event planning." The deadline for applications is this Thursday.

The committee was struck late last month in the final Council meeting before the summer recess and while the vote ultimately went in favour of establishing the committee, there were those around the table not satisfied with its composition.

Going into the meeting, Councillors were faced with terms of reference for the ad-hoc committee comprised of one member each of the Aurora Historical Society, Heritage Advisory Committee, Sport Aurora, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Cultural Centre Board, Aurora Seniors Association, and one citizen at large.

Their duties include getting feedback from residents on what they would like to see in the celebrations, developing a year-long plan for Council's approval including communications strategies, legacy projects, and budgets, looking at what other towns are doing, and "coordinate and execute all of the day-of logistics for any events planned during the 17 month term."

While the committee won't have constant support from municipal staff, the Town Treasurer and customer service department will provide financial controls and secretarial services.

The composition and staff support for this committee, however, were the two issues which dominated the discussion in June.

"I am concerned that we might not be getting the best people," said Councillor Paul Pirri of limiting the composition mostly to the community groups. "I think it should just be everyone at large and we should take a look at all the applications."

This was a viewpoint shared by Councillor Michael Thompson who said Council should pick the best of the applicants.

"I want to make sure we are as inclusive as possible and I'm afraid that just by asking specific groups we run the risk of alienating other groups," he said.

But Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, said the composition was devised to include groups that would bring different perspectives but would also share an overall general knowledge of the community from history to sports.

Nevertheless, some Councillors said they would like to have seen additional staff support offered to the group tasked with steering the sesquicentennial celebrations.

"Staff involvement was a point of discussion when it was brought up previously and we had recommended that to staff, at least a project manager be assigned as we didn't feel we had the staff resources that we could provide this committee," said Mr. Downey of the initial recommendation to have a committee led by a project manager which could have cost upwards of \$70,000.

While Councillor Wendy Gaertner said that she thought it was a bit much to ask the team of volunteers to execute everything outlined in the terms of reference as presented and suggested that they be removed alto-

gether, Councillor John Gallo said he foresaw the project "going astray" without regular staff support.

He suggested that in order to free up some staff time, something Mr. Downey said was in too short a supply to have someone tasked specifically for the sesquicentennial, an evaluation should take place on what is already planned for next year and if there are things Aurora can do without.

"It may not be a popular thing, but I am open to the discussion in terms of let's take a look at the work plan the department has and how we can work our way to this project," he said. "If we are very committed to this, I am open to opening up a discussion to remove some of the stuff we normally do on a year-to-year basis to ease up some of the staff time and resources in order for them to commit to this. Maybe we can give up something for this year in order to accomplish this."

Although Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who put in the initial notice of motion to start building the sesquicentennial celebration, said Mr. Downey's original plan "essentially" did that, Councillor Gallo said he was opposed to bringing in somebody new to do the job.

Councillors, however, voted down Councillor Pirri's amendment to make it a committee of members at large and Councillor Gallo's idea to pare down the community calendar to free up staff time did not pick up any steam around the table.

"We decided as a group that we would have a citizen committee," said Councillor Pirri. "Had I known that we'd now be looking at cutting events that we regularly have because now we want to do less with our staff to do something else, that was never discussed."

"It was always discussed that we would have a citizen committee driving it from the bottom up, that is what kept being said. Now we're saying that the option is what we originally wanted but we're going to force staff to do it under the confines that they expressed to us that we weren't able to do."

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FREE

Week of July 10, 2012



The Aurora Jays snapped out of a three game losing streak with a loud exclamation mark last Tuesday night, thanks to a 16-5 win over the Angus Black Sox at Lambert Willson Park.

All-Star Ian Gable contributed with a triple and ground rule double en route to the victory. Starting pitcher Andrew Bukovec took a no-decision and looked to continue his struggles on the mound as he allowed four runs through three innings of work, before Brent Owens came in to relieve and eventually pick up the win.

The Jays now hold an 11-6-1 record, with just six games remaining. The ball club will take on the Orillia Majors on Tuesday, July 10, at Lambert Willson with the first pitch scheduled for 7.30 p.m.

Auroran photo by Kevin Michie

## Mary Haberer has her eye on the championships

By Kevin Michie

34-year-old Aurora resident Mary Haberer has been an athlete all her life.

Since her days at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, to her current athletic pursuits in the swimming pool, she has represented Aurora in the Special Olympics in grand fashion.

The lifetime Aurora resident excels in baseball, track and field, golf, and soccer, but shines the brightest in the swimming pool where, earlier this year, she captured three first place finishes.

From the age of six-years-old, Mary has enjoyed swimming. Her interest took off while in grade 11, when the swimming coach at Carter asked if she was interested in joining the team. The answer was a resounding yes, and Mary has never looked back.

"That was really exciting for us because she was never welcomed on a team," said

Mary's mother, Sally. "To actually be invited onto a team was terrific, and that got her into swimming into a big way."

Mary trains at the facilities inside the Aurora Leisure Complex, both in and out of the pool. In the summer time, she will generally lower her level of training, practicing approximately once a week at the Aurora Recreational Complex, and focus more on summer sports.

"It gets me out of the house," laughed Mary, as she explained her rigorous athletic schedule.

Her time spent outside her house has become extremely worthwhile, demonstrated by her exceptional results at the Special Olympics Canada Provincial Spring Games, in late May, in Kingston, ON.

While there, the Aurora Special Ducks swimmer grabbed her three first place finishes in the 50m butterfly,

400m freestyle, and 100m freestyle, alongside a silver medal in 25m butterfly, and a bronze in 200m freestyle.

With the extremely strong provincial results now in her back pocket, Mary is concentrating on training, for Special Olympics Canada National Championships next summer in Vancouver.

The Special Olympics selection committee will decide within the next few months whether Mary will be heading to the west coast to compete in swimming, based on her prior results in the provincials.

Before her training intensifies, though, she will be stepping out of pool to focus on her summer sports, mainly baseball, which is another passion.

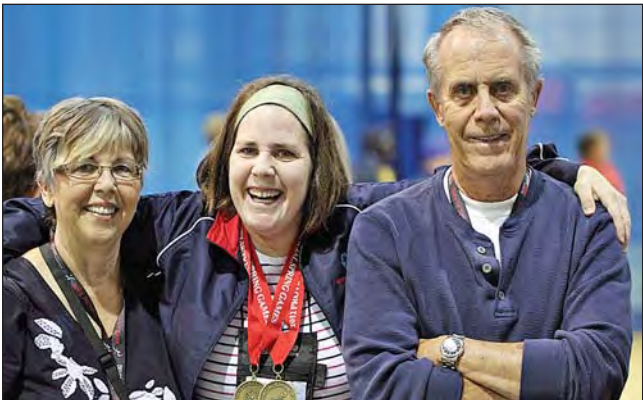
"I like them all, but I guess swimming and baseball [are my favourite sports]," said Mary. "It's hard to pick."

While she admits that she has a talent in several sports, Mary said that swimming is her true passion because of how often she can enjoy it.

"You can do swimming all year long," laughed Mary. "With baseball, you can only play during the summer."

Mary continues to receive support from her parents, Tom and Sally, and three siblings, Ingrid, Paula and Tom, and notes the extra encouragement she receives from her mother, while working out at the ALC together.

"My mom tells me when we go swimming, 'keep going, keep going!'"



Aurora Special Olympics athlete Mary Haberer celebrates a recent double medal win with her parents.

## Hey Aurora!

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from THE AURORAN

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# Olympic cut is "nothing short of crushing": McClelland

By Kevin Michie

Aurora resident and Olympic hopeful Peter McClelland had his dreams crushed last week after the World Cup rower was the last member cut from the Canadian Olympic men's rowing squad.

"It's one of the hardest things to have ever deal with," McClelland told The Auroran over the phone from Italy. "Being this close to a goal that I've been going towards for about a decade or so, it's been pretty hard to deal with, getting so close, and not quite making it in the end. But it's something that I have to go through and have to deal with and have to get beyond."

Last month, McClelland entered the World Cup of Rowing in Lucerne, Switzerland. The former St. Andrew's College student was confident that a strong showing at the event would lead to a spot on the Olympic team.

His boat placed seventh in the Men's Four, and McClelland felt he showed enough to keep a spot on the team.

Unfortunately, a wave rocked McClelland out of the boat, and the Olympics.

"I felt like I rowed well," said McClelland, noting his World Cup performance. "I think coaches have an idea of the boat that they'd like, and maybe sometimes you can change that, depending on results, or depending on how well you row, [and] in the style [they're] looking for."

"Just something [about] how we were in a unit, was not pleasing the coaches and they felt they could make an improvement by switching the boat around, and it's their prerogative to do that."

While there is an appeal process athletes can go through, McClelland has decided to forgo that course of action, and instead accept the decision made, and move on.

"I didn't necessarily agree with the decisions that the coaches made but in the end I respect them and I believe they should have the latitude to make them," said McClelland,

explaining why he decided to avoid the appeal process.

"I believe I could have an impact in that boat, and I think that the wrong decision was made, but at the end of the day, the coaches need to have some prerogative in how the boats are chosen and it's just unfortunate that I was the casualty."

The Aurora native will still get the opportunity to compete for Canada this summer, heading to Bulgaria to compete in the World Rowing Championships.

The World Championships feature rowing events that are not sanctioned Olympic events, including the coxed pair event, which features a boat with two rowers, and a coxswain.

"Every time you get to race for your country, it's an incredible honour and hopefully I can come out of there with a medal or even a championship title," said McClelland. "It's a good opportunity for me if I intend to keep on rowing."

Whether McClelland continues to row, though, is still up in the air.

When The Auroran last spoke with McClelland, the rower hinted that may retire following the Olympics, a wrench, however, has been thrown into this plan.

"It's something I'm definitely wrestling with," said McClelland, regarding his rowing future. "One year, there's no way I can keep going for another four years, and the next year I'm [feeling] the complete opposite and it's the only thing I want to do."

"I'll have to take the fall to figure that out, and see what other options are out there for me, and whether this is something I feel the need to come back for. The other thing I think I can't do is retire and then regret it 20 years down the line."

McClelland still has an opportunity to compete in London should one of the other rowers be unable to compete due to injury or other circumstance, and while no official first replacement has been named, he feels that he has a pretty good shot thanks to his

past experiences and successes.

"Should anything happen, I'll be ready to go," he said.

Whatever happens to McClelland now is worth monitoring, and cannot be predicted. The rower, however, is sure of one thing fol-

lowing this experience, and that is the fact that he gave everything he had, and is happy with his effort.

"I feel content knowing that I put down my best effort, and I couldn't have done anymore, personally, to work my place in the boat."

# Restaurants team up to make sure all kids can play

By Brock Weir

Sport Aurora and a local restaurant will be in Richmond Hill this week golfing for a good cause - to make sure "all kids can play."

The Aw, Shucks! Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, July 10, at Richmond Hill's Diamond Back Golf Club. All proceeds from this tourney will go to support Sport Aurora's All Kids Can Play in Aurora program. Entry is \$190 per player.

As the name suggests, the All Kids Can Play program is designed so every child in Aurora can have a chance to play organized sports in Town regardless of their family's income. Proceeds received by All Kids Can Play through Sport Aurora and its community partners, which also includes Canadian Tire's Jump Start Program, and The Rotary Club of Aurora, will go towards ensuring all neces-

sary equipment and uniforms can be purchased and there is nothing standing between your kid and their sport of choice.

Both Jump Start and Rotary recently gave a healthy infusion of funds to the program, which started in May, the latter presenting their cheque to Sport Aurora at a board meeting in June. At the meeting, Bruce Cuthbert, director of the program, encouraged more community leaders to come forward and make the program a success.

"To the groups that don't necessarily have a position to offer to youth, what we would like to suggest is that you contribute in some small way to having a fundraiser or some sort of endeavour that you think might be beneficial for children of Aurora in helping them play sports," he said.

"We do have some funding, but it is limited. We are funded through the Jump Start programming and there is not enough to do

full funding, nor is there enough to meet all the requirements. One of the other things we thought we could do was develop some affordable sports that kids can play that don't have high overhead and won't have a high registration fee."

One of the more affordable sports being kicked around for possible inclusion is Ultimate Frisbee.

Additional funds and resources for All Kids Can Play have also been contributed by the York Central Girls Hockey League.

If you would like an opportunity to make even a small contribution to the program, you can do just that by heading to Tom & Jerry's Bistro this month through August. The local eatery on the east side of Yonge Street, just south of Orchard Heights Boulevard is donating a percentage of all their receipts to Sport Aurora during these last two full months of summer. Eat up!

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# Metcalfe is portaging for his mother, grandmother, and aunt

**From page 1**

that is the objective of the Pink Portage.

"From the moment I told my mom, she said I was crazy," Andrew told The Auroran as he made his way down Yonge Street just south of Wellington. "From the moment I told my friends, they said I was crazy, but what I learned over the past year is you have just got to follow what you want to do and follow your heart. That is what I am doing, even though they think I am crazy - which I may be a little, to walk in this heat!"

As for the pink canoe, that is a key in his plan to bring attention to the cause.

"Portaging and canoeing is just something that I have been into since I was a kid and I kind of undertook this just by myself," he said. "I didn't go the sponsorship or the huge media route and at the end of the day I just thought it would be very hard to ignore a pink canoe at the side of the road for hundreds of kilometres, and hopefully that could raise a little bit of money for the Canadian Cancer Society."

While Andrew arrived in Aurora on Friday morning from Holland Landing, it was the middle of the afternoon by the time he reached Aurora's midpoint, having been stopped along the way by many curious passers-by who eventually became well wishers. After stopping at the Highland car dealership, he settled into a refreshing break at King Henry's Arms to grab some lunch (not beer - he hasn't touched the stuff in over a year in preparation for the trip, but it's near the top of

his list when he hits Windsor) and keep forging his way to Toronto.

"It has been really hot today, but I have had lots of people just between Newmarket and Aurora give me bottles of water and they are really helping out," he said. "I carry 'Together We Can' on my wristband and it turns out that is the truth because without random people and complete strangers helping me along the way, I would probably still be back in Kingston."

In fact, the reason why the journey began in Kingston started out as a bit of a joke between Andrew and a friend studying at Queen's University. When she said she lived in Kingston, Andrew asked why she didn't just say she lived in Ottawa because "it's right beside you."

Wrong answer.

"She would say, 'Alright, tough guy, why don't you walk the distance?' So I took her up on the challenge and I ate my words because they're definitely not right beside each other!"

With a goal of \$5,000, Andrew was on track for the goal at the start of last week, but after a late midweek boost from CITY-TV, he surged right over this goal to about \$7,600 at press time and his website was flooded by so many people curious about his trip that it had crashed several times by Friday night.

"I think people are definitely aware," he said, after the unexpected media blitz. "I get lots of honks now and I don't think it is because I am taking up the shoulder anymore! The support has been incredible

lately. [The website crashing from so many visitors] is a great problem to have and I just can't thank the people that have taken an interest in this enough. They're the real inspiration behind this. They are motivating beyond belief."

To track Andrew's progress, visit [www.pinkportage.com](http://www.pinkportage.com). For video of his trip through Aurora go to [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com).



**Mr. Metcalfe, with his pink canoe, cut a solitary figure as he made his way south on Yonge Street bound for Toronto, but as he stopped at Yonge and Wellington to speak to The Auroran, passing drivers were all too eager to learn about the Pink Portage and to lend their support.**

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## Charting the course for the next 20 years

By Brock Weir

What do you have planned for the next 20 years?

If you're still living in Aurora, the Town is planning for a sustainable future with a focus on community building, the economy, and the natural environment.

This 20 year vision for Aurora, one which will promote the Town as a "an innovative and sustainable community where neighbours care and businesses thrive," was recently firmed up at Council as they voted 7-1 in favour of adopting Aurora's new strategic plan.

The new plan, dubbed "Aurora 2031; Today, Tomorrow, Our Future Together" focuses on those three "pillars" to guide growth and public services in anticipation of Aurora experiencing a sharp population increase during the life of the document. Aurora's population has doubled since 1986, according to the document, and the vision for the next 20 years sees an additional 15,000 residents and 12,000 jobs coming into the community.

The plan, as passed by Council last Tuesday, however, is not set in stone but rather intended to be a living document, a guideline, that can be adapted as circumstances dictate.

"The plan itself follows the principles of sustainability and contains three pillars of success related to community, economy, and natural environment," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe last week while presenting the plan to Council. "Each of those pillars has within it goals and objectives.

"The community goal is accepting an exceptional

quality of life and has a series of five objectives with 36 action items which are very specific with the framework of accountability and time frames. Similarly, the economy is a goal of enabling a diverse, creative and resilient economy.

"It has two objectives and 19 specific actions associated with it. The third, being the natural environment, has a goal of supporting the environmental stewardship and sustainability with two objectives and nine actions. It is a very robust plan."

The plan was passed 7-1, with only Councillor Evelyn Buck voting against the plan. Councillor Sandra Humfries was not at the table for the vote.

"I'm glad staff are excited and I hate to rain on their parade," said Councillor Buck. "I believe five years is all the time anybody can hope to influence the direction of a municipality, if there is any hope at all of influencing how our municipality grows and develops and what the economy will be. I think five years was what we did previously and five years was the limit of how we can cast our minds ahead and make any kinds of commitments.

"But Council voted in the majority to look at a 20 year plan and now we find that this 20 year plan is going to be reviewed every five years. It would just have been as easy to have a five year plan. I find no substance in this plan. I guess I have been a resident of this town too long and seen too many changes to imagine for a minute that any bureaucratic organization is going to be able to make the kinds of differences that this plan purports

to be."

Considering the vote, it is clear that Councillor Buck was in the obvious minority, and for the Councillors who were in favour, this plan was all about planning for the future.

"It is a principle of good planning and good governance to engage in a strategic plan," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "I think one of the key take-aways from it is it is a living document and the performance measures and ... the idea is to continually advise and explore better ways to ensure we are following through and doing what we said we were going to do.

"Yes, the plan looks at a long period of time and, yes, that is typically how they are done, but I look forward to the continued feedback on adjusting it as the Town grows and things

change."

As The Auroran reported this spring, actions in the plan are divided into short, medium and long-term goals. Short term goals which are planned to be undertaken over the next few years include advocating for more accessible transit, programs to "promote and actively support innovative green building and infrastructure in Aurora", improving the delivery of Town services, creating a "Cultural Master Plan" covering heritage, music and art "to promote more cohesive and coordinated cultural services", bringing nature to young Aurorans, the creation of a year-round farmers' market, boosting Aurora's representation at Regional Council, and looking at further opportunities to develop and enhance the Town's Downtown core.

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About the Committee

To find out more about this opportunity, for a summary of terms of reference, meeting times, duties and functions of the Committee or to pick up an application form, please visit the Customer & Legislative Services department on the 2nd floor of Aurora Town Hall or the Town website at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

Any members of the general public residing in Aurora may apply but must be over the age of 18 and not employed by The Town of Aurora. Candidates who represent a cross-section of the community and who have experience with fundraising, grant writing, special event planning and/or marketing and promotion are preferred.

Applications will be accepted in-person, by mail, fax, or email and must be received by Thursday, July 12 and addressed to:

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# Governments pool brainpower to combat destructive bug

By Brock Weir

While the little green bugs nibble away at most of York Region's ash trees, the Province is stepping in to provide some guidance.

Although no money to help combat the bug or replace trees that will be lost seems to be forthcoming, the Province announced the establishment of the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan. In addition to the emerald ash borer, which is expected to wipe out most, if not all, of York Region's ash trees, the plan also covers species like zebra mussels in Lake Simcoe and the round goby.

The plan will be tackled by multiple provincial ministries and has the backings of several key stakeholders.

"The plan serves as an excellent framework for all of us in the invasive species network to focus on priorities and work collaboratively in response to the serious ecological and socio-economic threats that invasive species represent," said Robert Lambe, Executive Director of the Invasive Species Centre, in a statement.

"We're eager to work with the Ontario Government and our broad network of partners and stakeholders to deliver on key priorities."

The Ontario Government admits that the emerald ash borer poses a "major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas", and the plan says it has killed over one million trees in southern

Ontario alone. It will cost Toronto, for instance, nearly \$40 million to cut and replace city-owned ash trees and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has spent over \$30 million cutting over 130,000 trees to slow its wake.

Although the plan does not provide any financial assistance to help towns like Aurora rebuild the tree canopy after the borer has had its way with it, it promotes a multi-prong plan of prevention, detection, response, and management/adaptation, and information collected will then be used by ministries to set priorities in tackling the species.

"The complexity of Ontario's invasive species problem demands a significant number of actions and tactics, with implementation extending over a period of years," reads the plan. "Each year, Ontario ministries will use the Plan to work with partners and stakeholders to make decisions on key priorities for action."

"This Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan will also provide a starting point for discussions with other key partners about priorities for implementation. The federal government in particular plays a key role in the prevention, control, and management of invasive species, so it is imperative that Ontario continues to work collaboratively with federal agencies."

The primary objective of the plan is to ensure all parties - governments, stakeholders, etc. - are on the

same page regarding their roles in combating invasive species, improve communication between all levels, identify gaps between levels of government and work to fill those gaps, create new rapid response techniques, identify obstacles, and look at tightening up and unifying existing legislation and policies on invasive species.



Dan the Music Man, one of Toronto's more recognizable children's entertainers and songwriters held court with an enthusiastic crowd of youngsters on Wednesday in the first official "Concert in the Park" for 2012. This week's concert on July 11 features the Jimmy Buffet Tribute "Northern Harbour." "Nothing but Jimmy himself comes close," say organizers.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

## Watts the frequency?

**Continued from page 4**

Numerous game changers in the digital space have their roots in Silicon Valley, most notably Apple Inc. Back in the late 1990's Apple ran an advertising campaign for its personal computing line that encouraged prospective clients, and the world at large, to "think different". We did, and we haven't stopped. Not only do we think different, we create differently, consume differently, work differently and socialize differently.

Jaron Lanier is another Silicon Valley icon. Widely recognized as the father of Virtual Reality Lanier is a pioneer in interfacing computer science, medicine, physics and the neurosciences.

It is Lanier's contention that the most important thing to ask about any one technology is how it changes people.

Privacy, copyright, innovation, identity, journalism, infrastructure and leadership have all become subject to growing disruption and not from any singular technology but instead a mesh of thousands. How will these change us as people for better and/or worse? How can we leverage these changes to extend our personalities as opposed to resigning ourselves to be a mere collection of fragments or bits that can be all too easily exploited by others?

Nikola Tesla, best known for developing the modern alternating cur-

rent (AC) electrical supply system, could prove to be a valuable guide. Tesla's vast theoretical work also formed the basis of wireless communication and the radio. It is from this work that he believed if one wants to discover the secrets of the universe, one needs to

think in terms of energy, frequency and vibration.

In the coming weeks this column will explore the trends that are reshaping culture in the digital age, both at large and as they apply here in Aurora by thinking along these terms.

Stay tuned.

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***With the aid of scientific research over the years, people have learned that the functioning of natural laws controls their resulting right or wrong output when their input conforms to that specific laws or instead is somehow noncompliant.***

Examples with regard to laws of physics such as gravity, chemistry, and electricity probably come to mind.

Since the created laws of physics are autonomous and self-enforcing, people have learned to carefully conform to each law of physics to ensure their safety and well-being.

What only a comparatively few people have learned is that there is a little-known, overweening natural law that controls the right or wrong results that develop from our every thought and action.

In the past century, the late Richard W. Wetherill identified a natural law of behaviour that he and now a group of his former students have been presenting to the public for several decades. But despite the fact that nearly 300,000 people worldwide have visited our website as of October 2011, more people are needed that understand the law's basic message and will help by sending others to our website: [alphapub.com](http://alphapub.com).

Nature's behavioral law is also autonomous and self-enforcing as evidenced by people's failures to resolve their wrong results, destroying one civilization after another.

The use of every philosophical,

scientific, practical, or religious approach of man did not nor could not resolve society's escalating problems and trouble. Today, levels of crime, corruption, mental disorders, and rebellious rioting continue spiraling upward in our growing population. What a depressing list of wrong results!

But, "Be of good cheer, the solution is here." It is found in creation's natural law of absolute right mentioned above.

Could the entire human race have been consistently defying the natural law for eons? The brief answer is "yes." And that defiance is stopped only when people accord to nature's behavioral law, calling for their attitude and behavior to comply with creation's law of absolute right.

In order to survive, this civilization must conform to the creator's formula for life, calling for behavior that the law deems is rational and honest in what is thought, said, and done.

Prevalent blocks preventing people from conforming are their desires to get their way or to get notoriety and credit for what they believe are their efforts: money, careers, and prominent positions. All such prideful behavior is inap-

propriate when you consider that everybody's very existence is a gift of creation.

There needs to be a realization that in the end, people have been paying with their lives for their misbehavior regarding the law of absolute right.

That tell it like it is!

Whether anybody likes it or not, only rational, honest people are able to serve the purposes of creation's plan of life.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18					19				20	21		
	22			23					24			
		25							26			
				27		28	29	30				
			31			32						
		33						34				
	35						36			37	38	
39						40					41	
42					43					44		45
46				47	48					49		
50				51						52		
53				54						55		

### CLUES ACROSS

- 3rd VP Aaron
- Not hard
- Revolutions per minute
- Assoc. of Licensed Aircraft Engineers
- Being of use or service
- Macaws
- 1960's college civil rights organization
- Protection from extradition
- Animal examiner
- Japanese persimmon
- Commands right
- A stage of development
- Irish, English & Gordon
- Showing keen interest
- Doyens
- Remain as is
- 36 inches (abbr.)
- Told on

- Making a sustained din
- Poked from behind
- 24th state
- Himalayan goat
- Diver breathing gear
- Groups of three
- Not tightly
- Regenerate
- Strung necklace part
- Breezed through
- Imitate
- Do-nothings
- Unconsciousness
- Golf score
- Fertilizes
- Used for baking or drying
- Autonomic nervous system
- Turner, Williams & Kennedy
- Hawaiian goose

### CLUES DOWN

- Usually in the sun
- Arm bones
- Placed on a display stand
- Repeat a poem aloud
- Eyelid gland infections
- Lubes
- A contagious viral disease
- Stormy & unpeaceful
- Devastated & ruined
- Put in advance
- Pater's partner
- Exploiters
- Meeting schedules
- Intensely dislikes
- "Tim McGraw" was her 1st hit
- Fishing implement

- Atomic #18
- Microgadus fishes
- Blue jack salmon
- Of I
- Feet first somersault dives
- Tool to remove bone from the skull
- Glides high
- Tower signal light
- Small recess off a larger room
- Water chestnut genus
- City on the River Aire
- It's capital is Sanaa
- Lost blood
- A citizen of Denmark
- River in NE Scotland

## Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION	S	A	S	S		S	A	N	A	A		S	E	B	S
	A	U	B	E		S	E	E	L	S		A	R	E	A
	C	R	A	N		R	O	W	E	L		D	A	R	I
	H	A				N	Y	E						M	L
	S	E	S	A	M	E		O		S	A	S	H	E	S
				W	A	N		R		I	R	A			
	S	A	F	E		A	I	K	E	N		D	A	B	A
	A	N	A	S		M	D		E	U		D	H	A	L
	M	I	A	O		E	A	R	L	S		L	A	D	E
				M	O	L		A		E	K	E			
	S	C	R	E	W	S		N		S	A	D	I	S	T
	P	A					A	G	A					A	H
	A	B	A	S		S	C	E	N	A		S	E	B	E
	C	E	D	E		L	E	R	O	T		U	R	I	C
	E	R	S	E		A	S	S	A	M		S	R	N	A



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# Co-op residents come together to change community



(Left) Charles Darrow Co-Op residents Mariamna Arbid, Chloe Lake, and Isabel Talma wait for the fun to start Thursday evening in a celebration of the neighbourhood's investment from the United Way. Funding from the United Way has gone towards creating programs and initiatives for (right) turning the Co-Op's teens into the leaders of tomorrow. (Centre) The evening culminated in a series of fun activities focusing on leadership and teamwork lead by Dynamix. Auroran photos by David Falconer

**By Brock Weir**

Communities are built on the strengths of its people, and this is something recognized by the residents of Aurora's Charles Darrow Co-Op as they seek to revitalize their neighbourhood and build the leaders of tomorrow.

To talk to younger and some of the more seasoned residents of the Co-op, the neighbourhood which is located on Wellington Street West, just north of Murray Drive, seems to have a reputation which precedes it. But it is one which they hope to change. The community has recently teamed up with the United Way as part of its Strength Investments program to give the Co-op the resources it needs to build a better future.

"Over the last few years we have gone out to neighbourhoods and what becomes very interesting is people actually care and want to solve problems on their own," said Daniele Zanotti, CEO of the United Way of York Region on the budding relationship between the Co-op and the organization. "We introduced this investment which was not about needs and deficiencies, but spoke to what are the strengths in your community and what are the skills you can bring here."

What fascinated United Way was that the people of Charles Darrow and the Community Development in Action Program, an arm of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), which has been active in the neighbourhood, came and outlined their

strengths but said they did not have the resources to bring it all together.

"Leaders in the community said, 'We think we have got a project and we think we can build on skills internally to develop after school programs, a community garden,' and that is the difference in all our other projects," said Mr. Zanotti. "We put out a call and people sent us needs and problems that they are going to fix. In this case, residents said they had a solution."

Their solution has been a series of engagement and leadership programs that have brought kids of all ages out of the homes and into community areas to interact with one another, and even utilize the skills of older residents, such as artists and legal professionals, to learn and grow with an eye to the future.

"They did not see a community in a deficit," said Mr. Zanotti. "They saw it as a community asset base and that is always the United Way approach."

The partnership between the Charles Darrow Co-Op and the United Way - as well as Dynamix, a teambuilding company focused on turning out productive and responsible citizens through fun-based activities - was celebrated at a community event on Thursday night.

The event was a way for residents, particularly the younger folk, to put their new teambuilding skills in action and even build new relationships going forward. Kids, teen leaders (residents over the age of 13) and parents had fun with an epic Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament and a game which

could only be described as a multi-team, larger-than-life version of Memory which was kept going solely through communication among teammates, they shared their stories of what these programs mean to them.

"You have friends that can trust you and you can talk about your problems," said Isabel Talma.

Added Mariamna Arbid: "All of us practically have the same problems - our parents are split up so we learn about new things, talk about how we feel and combine them. We feel warm with each other because we talk about our feelings."

These programs, however, hinge on the teen leaders, the leaders of tomorrow, and they too are very enthusiastic about the program.

"We learn skills like leadership and have different resources and reaching out," said Joe Loist. "We figure out our skills and build them and it helps people get to know each other and feel more comfortable."

If we get comfortable with lots of people and all of our neighbours and the people surrounding us, when we go to university we will be able to make friends faster and be good leaders for everything. I didn't know what it was

[when it first started out] and I came here and it wasn't so bad. It's a good learning thing."

Joe's neighbour, Tanner Collins, agrees.

"What I have enjoyed is with my friends trying to work together and collaborate. I was so-so at first and missed out, but the first time coming was great. We just did fun things and meet new people."

Shirley Woods, a community development worker from the CMHA who has been with the Co-op since last year, has seen this growth first-hand. She said she has seen teens who were either shy, or deemed "trouble makers" by some parts of the community blossom and even make connections to younger kids through the program. Kids have found people from their own school living in the neighbourhood unbeknownst to them as they never interacted in the neighbourhood, and kids who had been spending their energies in what could have been deemed antisocial ways have found a new outlet.

"When I think about Charles Darrow it is a community of committed, caring families who have come together to identify the strengths and the weaknesses of their neighbourhood and share ideas on how to increase participa-

tion, reduce isolation, engage youth and peer leaders and develop more positive relationships," she said.

The programs at Charles Darrow are still in full swing and are not just limited to youth.

This is really the tip of the iceberg in their plans and in the coming months programs will focus on engaging resident seniors and youth together in an "elders" program, based on the Aboriginal concept.

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# Doors Open across Aurora this Saturday!

**By Erina Kelly  
Member, Aurora Heritage  
Advisory Committee**

We're only few days away from Aurora's much anticipated Doors Open-a six-hour event that's rich in heritage and a unique opportunity for us to celebrate our roots.

Drop by Town Hall, the Aurora Public Library, or the Seniors' Centre before July 14 to pick up your detailed map of this year's 21 featured sites or scoop one up on Doors Open Day. Maps will be available at each site so you can plan your route around town.

Where to begin on July 14th? Why not start with the Classic Car exhibit? Whether you call them "classic cars" or "muscle cars", there's no question these roadsters pack a heap of nostalgia.

One glimpse of these old beauties and many of us reminisce of simpler times when hardly anyone worked Sundays and kids spent summer afternoons lying on the grass watching the clouds roll by. The Pontiac GTO, the Chrysler Hemi, the Chevy Nova-which was your favorite? Come to learn more about these gems, ask their owners questions and share your own stories about the heritage cars you've loved.

Why not ask how you can become a member? They'd be happy to provide details. The Newmarket Car Club was founded in 1974 by a group of auto enthusiasts and is very active in York Region community events. For a sneak preview of their awesome cars, check out [www.newmarketcarclub.com](http://www.newmarketcarclub.com). It's the club's first time participating in Doors Open Aurora and we're happy to welcome them.

**Victoria Hall & Scarborough  
Model Railroaders**

Victoria Hall is a fine example of a simple Gothic Revival church of the late 19th century. Built in 1883 as a place of worship, The Disciples of Christ Church served its congregation for 39 years. Andrew Yule (then office manager of the Fleury Implement Works) was one of its founders. But things change...and in 1922 it was sold to the Town of Aurora.

Selling price 90 years ago: \$3,500.

The Town then transformed the building's interior to accommodate a public "Health



Hall" (heritage words for Walk-In Clinic).

It employed a nurse who served both the school around the corner and the public at large. Victoria Hall is an integral part of Old Aurora and adds a rich, graceful antiquity to the mix of historical architecture in the Mosley-Victoria-Church Street neighborhood. Lovers of architecture will appreciate the building's outstanding features: its arched windows, the buttresses, and the steeply pitched roof ornamented by the exposed ends of the roof rafters.

Open the doors and inside you'll find the Scarborough Model Railroaders' steam and diesel locomotives. Back by popular demand, this club's model cars are stunning mini replicas of their original trains and impeccably detailed. Their sound is so realistic it captures young and old visitor's hearts.

The Scarborough Model Railroaders have been constructing and operating model railways for 50 years. The club's permanent location is in Scarborough, near Birchmount and Danforth and club members meet regularly to both operate the two railways and to maintain and improve them.

The Club is always interested in new members and holds Open Houses on four Sundays each year (in February, March, November and December). Check out [www.scarborough-model-railroaders.org](http://www.scarborough-model-railroaders.org) and be sure to catch this animated exhibit.

**Rising Sun  
Masonic Lodge**

Aurora's heritage Masonic Lodge is one of a number of religious, institutional and public places in the historic village of Aurora that's bounded by Yonge, Mosley, Larmont and Metcalfe Streets. Built in 1877, it was the Methodist Episcopal Church for eight years until the congregation sold it to the Masons in 1885.

Heritage enthusiasts will appreciate this building's Gothic Revival style, its small wood-porch entryway and gabled roof covered with pressed metal sheets that give the appearance of slate shingles.

Its interior is an exceptional example of Masonic architecture in Ontario. One visit and you'll know why this Lodge is named Rising Sun. It is a vivid and memorable space.

The pictures of the Lodge Masters that hang in the entrance date back to 1860. These men were also the Town of Aurora's founding builders and many of the streets and parks in this neighborhood honor their names.

It's not often we get a chance to glimpse inside an intriguing Masonic Lodge such as this so take advantage of this opportunity.

This is the last article leading to Doors Open. We hope you come out and visit our sites and displays, take a walking tour, talk to a "human book" at the Library and so much more. Don't

miss Town Park between 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. where the nostalgic sounds of the Jambalaya Dixieland Jazz Band will flow from the Band Shell. We're looking forward to a wonderful day.

For more information

about Doors Open Aurora, please visit [www.aurora.ca/doorsopen2012](http://www.aurora.ca/doorsopen2012) or call Marco Ramunno, Director of Planning, 905-727-3123 ext. 4341.

If you'd like your

house/site featured in 2013 Doors Open Aurora, please call or email us. Doors Open is an activity of the Town of Aurora and its Heritage Advisory Committee; we hope you enjoy this year's event!



**Historic buildings and public spaces open their doors this Saturday. Doors Open 2012 will include a display of vintage vehicles from the Newmarket Car Club and (above) a rare glimpse inside the Mosley Street Masonic Hall.**

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## Play opens 2012 - 2013

**From page 10**  
characters in Private Lives, he said he is reluctant to put his own personal touch on the play so not to "step on Noel Coward's work", but that will come through characters' reactions, which are a reflection of both his experiences and the actors because all of them have a connection to the work.

"Even though it is a period piece and even though it was originally intended as a commentary on English high society at time, there are things that have become

universal. There are things that everyone can recognize and say I have been there and I know what is going on and I know what that guy is thinking because it happened to me as well.

"That is what makes it span the ages. It is relevant today and it will be relevant 20 years from now."

Private Lives will run at the Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive on select dates beginning August 14 through August 25. For more information, visit [www.theatreaurora.com](http://www.theatreaurora.com).

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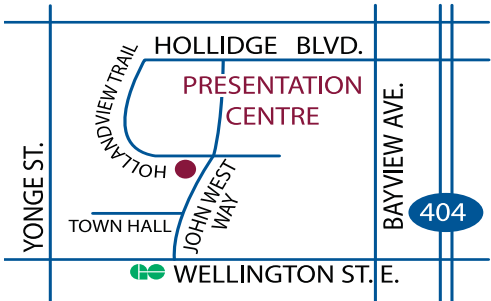
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